

Super League supremo tells all

7 PAGES OF SPORT

INSIDE: THE ONLY OFFICIAL UCAS GUIDE TO UNIVERSITY PLACES



Tycoon puts up fortune to halt euro

Political Correspondent

A MULTI-MILLION pound campaign against Britain's entry to the European single currency is to be launched by Paul Sykes, the millionaire Euro-sceptic businessman.

Mr Sykes has vowed to "use every means possible" in a one-man crusade to persuade the public to vote "No" in a referendum on the euro.

The former Tory parliamentary candidate, who is worth some £250m pounds, will mastermind a nationwide publicity blitz that is likely to dwarf any positive propaganda for the single currency.

Taking on the mantle left behind by the late Sir James Goldsmith and his now defunct dangers of monetary union. To get around broadcasting restrictions he plans to send campaign videos to key groups and

1

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2

The campaign will begin on 1 January next year, the starting date for the single currency across Europe, and will last

"as long as it takes". With the Government committed to a referendum in the next Parliament if it decides to join European monetary union, the Sykes campaign could stretch for at least four years. costing millions, although he declines to give a specific figure.

The campaign is reportedly being planned with 'military precision" and was sparked by polls commissioned by Mr Sykes that found that 93 per cent of the British public wanted more information about the

Echoing the presidential campaign in the United States of the billionaire Ross Perot, Mr



Sykes: One-man crusade

Sykes will use his personal fortune to fund the campaign and has prepared a network of supporters across the country to spread the message.

"I'm going to do everything Referendum Party, Mr Sykes I can to stop this and I will raise but the Conservative Party is no will use newspapers, posters hellfire to get the message and the Internet to warn of the across. I owe that to the British people. There is no point in being a rich man if you've lost your nation," he told The Independent.

Mr Sykes will detail his plans next month to guarantee maximum impact ahead of all the party conferences.

He is understood to have senior economists from every one of the 15 European Union nations line up to argue the case against the euro, as well as MEPs from the Continent who admit that its adoption will mean a federal, United States of Europe.

Other big American names are also part of the Sykes team. Mr Sykes denied that he was funding independent candidates to stand against Tory candidates in next year's European elections, and claimed that the single currency issue was much more important to

"There never has been a country that doesn't have its time has come for the British people to be made aware of the disaster that the euro would be," he said.

"We are all geared up to go live on January 1, when we will press the button and the campaign will start. We're going to use every means possible to get our message across. We will use the media, the Internet, every-

"I want to make clear that we are not a party. We will be looking to spread information, factual information that we believe the people have a right to know."

The tycoon said that he had given up on party politics, but was determined to ensure that every voter knew the implications of joining the single cur-rency. "I'm still a Conservative, longer a Conservative party," he

"This is about telling the man in the street what is going on. The only vote that the people have got is in this referendum. You are either for it or against it, it's as simple as

We are all worried about losing British jobs, but with the euro you are in for dynamite. Miners in Barnsley and steelworkers in Sheffield can't be expected to up sticks and move to

"But that's what the single currency is all about. I have got to oppose this ever-creeping federalism."

Government sources have suggested that there may have to be limits on spending on "Yes" or "No" campaigns ahead of a referendum.

However, Mr Sykes said: "If they limit the amount one individual can spend, we will have lots of individuals involved. The message will get through."



Tony Blair shakes hands with the people of Omagh who lined the route of his walkabout in the Co Tyrone town yesterday

Pacemaker

Draconian' law targets Real IRA

TONY BLAIR yesterday visited Omagh to convey his condolences to the stricken town and to announce far-reaching new legal measures which the Government hopes will put paid to

the bombers of the Real IRA. Parliament is to be recalled on Wednesday and Thursday of next week-coinciding with the already announced recall of

the Dail in Dublin - to rush the new legislation through. Echoing the Irish prime minister, he described the changes

as being of a "draconian and fundamental nature". The key measure in the Government's package will allow a senior police officer to testify

that he believes a defendant is

a member of a proscribed or-

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK Ireland Correspondent

ganisation - particularly the Real IRA, whose bomb claimed 28 lives in Omagh earlier this month. A suspect's silence will be cited as corroborating evi-

dence against him. The prime minister's visit to Omagh was a muted affair in a rain-swept town which is only beginning on the road towards recovery. Although many businesses have reopened following the bombing, many remain

badly damaged. Mr Blair appeared emotionally moved after speaking to local people, who included doctors and purses and civic and business leaders. He visited several premises, including an IRA and put them behind bars Oxfam shop where people were killed by the blast.

need, now that it is plain that we are dealing with this small wholly unsupported, wholly unrepresentative group of extremists, to tighten our law in relation to what is needed to secure a conviction for membership of a proscribed terrorist organisation." The British and Irish governments had the determination to take whatever

those responsible to justice. The two governments clearly hope that the new measures will go further than previous laws and allow police to round

up known members of the Real

Zimbabwe aircraft bomb rebels as

measures they could to bring

most of the group's members He said: "There is a clear are thought to live south of the border it could be that Gardai

in the Republic may bring most of membership charges. Opposition parties in both Britain and the Republic have pledged their support for the measures. The recall of Westminster will cause some administrative upheaval, especially since the Commons chamber is presently littered with scaffolding. Workmen have been removing asbestos from the

space above the chamber. The new measures are expected to pass through the Commons next Wednesday and the Lords on Thursday.

Mr Blair said proposals on within weeks or months. Since the admissibility of evidence, some suggested in the last 24 bours by Royal Ulster Constabulary Chief Constable Ronnie Flanagan, were still being discussed with Government law officers and others. Even before Mr Blair gave details of the measure they were condemned by Sinn Fein chief ne-

gotiator Martin McGuinness as "a massive over-reaction." In Dundalk, meanwhile, the discovery of more than 40 dumped cassette-type firebombs was seen as the latest in a series of signs that panic might be spreading within the ranks of the Real IRA.

Leading article. Review, page 3

Medical students told bedside manners matter

BRITAIN'S UNIVERSITIES are to be told to change the way they select medical students to put less emphasis on A level grades and more on bedside manner. The Council of Deans of Medical Schools is to issue a policy statement next month urging them to broaden their selection criteria beyond academic achievement to ensure that they produce committed doctors with the human touch for the new millennium.

Criticism that medical schools are turning out doctors who may be brilliant scientist

BY JEREMY LAURANCE Health Editor

but lack the intuitive ear and interpersonal skills essential to good medicine has stung the

council into action. It has commissioned a study of the selection criteria used for all appli- cants to medical school in 1997, the first to be carried out, which is expected to show that A level grades are far and away the single most important factor when it is pub-

lished next month. It has also been alarmed by evidence that medical schools discriminate against applicants from ethnic minorities.

Although they account for more than a quarter of students in some medical schools. because of the high numbers who apply, it is harder for them to get a place than for white ap-

Professor Stephen Tomlinson, dean of Manchester University medical school and secretary of the council of deans. said: "People are beginning to feel uncomfortable about the weighting put on A level grades.



There must be outstanding doctors who don't get four As. But A level grades are the only tried and tested criterion we have."

In 1997, the average A level score of successful applicants was better than two As and a B. Some medical schools had tried psychometric testing, but found the results disappointing.

central African war intensifies

aircraft yesterday bombed rebel positions in the Democratic Republic of Congo as President Laurent Kabila returned to the capital, vowing to strike back against the insurgents. His motorcade – a caravan of black limousines flanked by pick-up trucks filled with commandos - zipped through Kinshasa's rutted streets past

cheering and waving crowds. His return after a week's absence, forced on him when rebels threatened to march into Kinshasa, came as the al-

ANGOLAN and Zimbabwean By IAN STEWART

lied planes from Angola and Zimbabwe attacked two major towns held by the rebels, who are backed by Uganda and Rwanda. Rebel officials said the aircraft bombed Kisangani, in eastern Congo, and Kasanguhr, 30km from Kinshasa.

A rebel said the planes had bombed civilian targets in Kisangani. "They cannot recapture Kisangani, only bomb it from the air," he said. "This is terrorism.

golan allies in the western corridor that stretches from Kinshasa to the Atlantic Ocean have put the rebels on the defensive. The government said that in the wake of these gains it is planning on moving into

rebel areas in the east. As the fighting threatened to shift towards the border with Rwanda, Catholic officials in Rome said that Tutsi rebels in eastern Congo had attacked a mission crowded with refugees, killing 37 people. They

A string of victories by Con- allegedly attacked because they golese soldiers and their An- suspected that local people were giving food to a pro-government militia. All the dead were Congolese.

In western Congo, Angolan forces fighting on behalf of Mr Kabila have recaptured towns the rebels had taken, reportedly including the Congo River port of Matadi, though rebel officials deny the town has fallen. The rebels in the west are

trapped between Angolan

forces and Zimbabwean troops

defending Kinshasa's south-

ern outskirts.

HOME

A surgeon is to be investigated for his role in allegedly bungled nperations

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HOME

Police officers will act Recruitment tn secondary school as supergrasses to inform on colleagues teaching is at Scotland Yard plummeting

HOME

next February in a move to civilian rule PAGE 6

FOREIGN Nigeria is to hold Presidential elections

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FOREIGN

Communists may be given cabinet seats in Russia's new coalition government

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BUSINESS

Goldman Sachs is to adnpt a tnugh poisonpill defence against potential predators

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SPORT

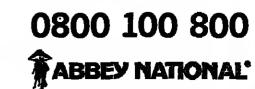
Alec Stewart is England cricket captain for the Ashes tnur and the

1999 World Cup



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toilets

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

A TEENAGE boy out shopping

with his mother was raped in

the toilets of a department

store, police said yesterday. The 13-year-old was forced into a cubicle in the toilets at

British Homes Stores and

raped in an attack that lasted

several minutes. The attacker was eventually disturbed by another member of the public Yesterday, as police released

a photograph of the suspect taken from security cameras, they

warned that he was a danger in

me that this boy was actually

raped whilst shoppers sat

drinking tea and coffee in the store restaurant, just a few yards away from the toilets."

said Detective Superintendent Eddie Hemsley of West York

ger to children. Anyone who can

commit an obscene act like

this in a public toilet could

The attack, on 7 August, took place at British Home Stores in

Leeds. The teenager had left his mother, but arranged to meet

He had been washing his hands in a sink, when the man

The attacker was disturbed hy a member of the public who

grabbed bim and forced him

entered the toilets and then

chased the attacker but

lost him in the crowds of shop-

Det Supt Hemsley yesterday

told a press conference that he

believed the attacker had de-

liberately followed the boy into

"He has been looking for

A police spokesman last

night said that the boy, who has

received specialist counselling.

appeared to be making a rela-

tively good recovery after the

attack. He did not suffer any

lasting physical injuries. "The trouble is that you

his victim and was on the look-

out for a young boy." he said.

clearly strike again.

her again later.

into the cuhicle.

the toilets.

"The man responsible for this sickening offence is a dan-

"It is extremely disturbing to

all children.

shire Police.

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HOME NEWS PAGES 2 - 10

Blair to boost Labour in Scotland Tony Blair will visit Scotland tomorrow to face growing fears that his hold on power in Labour's Scottish heartland and his party's strategy for devolution are in danger of being wrecked by the SNP. Page 4

Tenth of world trees threatened Ten per cent of the world's tree species - including 11 in the UK - are facing extinction, according to a new

FOREIGN NEWS PAGES 11 - 14

US searches for Sudan gas proof US officials have been scrambling to provide more informatioo about the Sudanese factory that was destroyed in last week's attacks. Page 11

BUSINESS NEWS

Cortecs' new brittle bone test Millions of women with brittle bone disease will be able to receive a five-minute test in their GP surgeries for the first time, thanks to a new device to be launched later this year by Cortecs Diagnostic.

SPORTS NEWS

Rumours puts pressure on Spurs The crisis at Tottenham Hotspur is deepening with rumours of a takeover and the pressure increasing on the coach, Christian Gross.

WEDNESDAY REVIEW 26-PAGE BROADSHEET SECTION

David McKittrick

The new laws being readied for Ireland north and south appear to contain the extraordinary provision that individuals will henceforth be treated as innocent until declared guilty.

Lord Parkinson

Independent research suggests our electoral system is more proportional than any form of PR.'

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Want to get A loan at only 12.5% APR?

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Office 20 Manton Way, Loads LSZ 8NZ Yorkshire Bank Militar Divini delle di Carever sellena arabika erabika di salah salah selektra di salah salah selektra di salah salah



Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie, president of the MCC, at a press conference yesterday. The club will vote again on allowing women members, he said. In February over half its members voted to admit women, but the motion fell, as it failed to reach the necessary two-thirds majority. John Voos

Dyslexic prodigy loses

DYSLEXICS organisations yesterday called on the Government to live up to its rhetoric on education after a highly gifted teenager was refused financial backing to go to university.

Alexander Faludy, 15, with an 1Q off the normal scale would have been the youngest Cambridge University under-graduate since William Pitt the Younger, despite suffering severe dyslexia; he can write only two illegible words a minute and also suffers from dyspraxla, "clumsy child syndrome".

The family believed the local council should provide funds for his degree course.

BY CATHY COMERFORD AND NICOLE VEASH

But a High Court judge ruled yesterday that Portsmouth City Council was correct in deciding that it had no duty to assess Alexander for special education needs or to provide extra financial support for his degree in theology and history of art.

Alexander and his family, of Servant Road, Portsmouth, now fear that his university place could be threatened if they fail to win financial backing from other sources.

College in October, but he needed special equipment to read books and write his essays. But Portsmouth City Council has re-

After the ruling the family's solicitor, Samantha Chambers. said: "Alex and his parents are obviously very disappointed.

fused him any extra money.

"Now that the local education anthority will not be financially supporting, (he) must ... try to secure funding for his course ... from other sources. "It would be very sad if, after

Alexander the son of two overcoming his very signifiteachers, had told the judge at cant learning difficulties, his

a hearing yesterday that, he place at Cambridge could be planned to go to Peterhouse threatened by lack of finances." She said the family would

now oeed to raise between £5,000 and £10,000 a year for Alexander's three-year course to pay for trition, equipment and someone to help him. The British Dyslexic Asso-

ciation (BDA) said there was still a moral case for support to be made available to Alexander Faludy, and others like him. It called on the Government to back its rhetoric by setting educational targets for children with special needs.

BDA chief executive Joanne Rule said: "Regardless of the

ple moral case for Alexander Faludy to be given the support be needs to reach his full potential.

"Alexander Faludy is exceptional, a truly gifted child. But there are many other dyslexic children whose ordinary school careers are equally unhappy, stuck in lower-stream groups regardless of their ability and afraid of being bullied.

"The Government must signal its determination that schools have higher expectations of pupils with special educational needs by setting

three years for an operation.

She had a private operation for

vately in 1992...under a Tory

doo't know what psychological harm he might suffer - not just now but in years to come," he The spokesman said detectives had been looking at both registers, but had been unable to identify the attacker.

用于本政治的

They remained convinced. however, that this was not the first time he has offended.

They have also spoken to other people captured on the security film and who had been shopping in the store.

British Home Stores last night refused to comment.

NHS waiting lists 'set for biggest fall' for operations will be down to extra £18bn promised by Gorwas told this year she must wait

THE HEALTH Secretary, Frank Dobson, today will announce the biggest single fall in the oumbers waiting for operations in the National Health Ser-

The reduction in the waiting lists by more than 40,000, over the four months to the end of July, is being treated with glee by ministers as clear evidence that they are on track to deliv-

BY COLIN BROWN **Chief Political Correspondent**

er Labour's election pledges to cut waiting lists by 100,000.

Mr Dobson knows his job is on the line if he fails to cut the figures dramatically after they rose to 1.29m instead of falling the first year.

He has promised Tony Blair that the total number waiting

BRITAIN TODAY

the level inherited by Labour at don Brown, the Chancellor. the general election by the end of the next 12 months.

Mr Dobson said he had instructed hospitals to end the scandal of accident and emergency cases waiting on trolleys for treatment. That forced doctors to postpone routine "elective" surgery and got the numbers down And with the

LIGHTING UP

HIGH TIDES

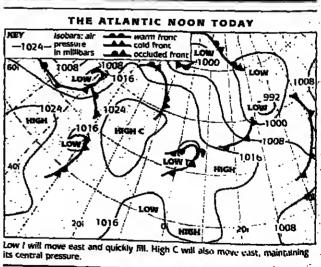
over the next three years, being targeted at waiting lists, ministers are confident of achieving Labour's manifesto pledge to get the figures down before the next election.

The Tories claimed the figures were being fiddled. They said a 73-year-old woman with varicose veins from Bedford

YESTERDAY

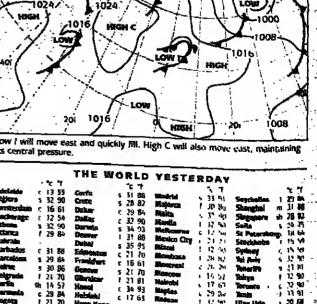
EXTREMES

Mr Dobson's office said there were no records of the patient being oo a current NHS waiting list and added: "The patient concerned did have a varicose vein operation carried out pri-



THE WORLD YESTERDAY

THE WORLD EUROPE NOON TODAY Wiarmest: Crawley, W. Sussex 22C (72F) Coldest: Sella Ness, Sherland 12C (54F) Wettest: Isle of Man 0.28 in Summiest: Seaford, E. Sussex 11.9 hours



FORECAST

Ireland: Dry with sunny spells. A light north to north-westerly wind. Max mp 15-16C (59-61F).

SNL SE & NE Sociand, Giasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen: A dry day with the cloud breaking to allow some sunny spells. A light to moderate north-westerly wind. Max temp 14-17C (57-63F).

OUTLOOK

flost parts will be dry with some sunshine on Thursday and Friday, with the exception of Scotland where a period of rain is expected on Friday. The Bank Hol

Roads: London: M1/A12 link road. Veri-ous restrictions in place. Until 31st December 1999. West Midlands: M5 between J5 (B'ham west) and J2 (Dudley). Resurfacing work Until 12th October.
West Yorkshire: M1 between J43 Stourton and J42 (Lothouse Interchange) (M62).
Roadworks with 50mph speed limit. Roadworks Until 1st November. Until 1st November. M40 bet

i lorce. Until 1st Jeruary 1999. Ierkahira: M4 Between J8/9 Maidenhei seminars: Me Beween Joe Massar isau and J7 Slough. New road layout with a 50mph speed limit in a new half-mile cardagaway during flood relief work.
Units 30th November.
Bristol: M5 J18-19, Major Roadworks on followed by the two digits for your ores. Source: The Met. Office. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT)

06.03 20.01 10.31

WEATHERLINE

For the larest forecasts (Sal 0891 5009

COME RAIN OR SHINE ..

MORE THAN a quarter of a million residents and visitors were ordered to leave North Carolina's low-lying, exposed Outer Banks yesterday as Hurricane Bonnie accelerated on a path that could carry its fury into the barrier island chain. The National Weather Service said Bonnie's centre with its 115mph wind could be near the Outer Banks by late morning.

5... 9.11 4p 11... 6.2 11 Lt: 6.5 Qu To 12.2 4.1 8.3 5U UC 5ut 11. The 10r 11a 3.4 3.3 Mei 12. The Can 1.15

Pizza man swallows The Ivy as top restaurant chains grow ever fatter

BY KATHY MARKS

IT'S ALL becoming quite exbausting. You've just got to know the maitre d'at one fashionable restaurant when another one opens its doors across town. Nowadays, it's impossible to be seen in all the

The people to blame for this infuriating social whirl are the latter-day Julius Caesars colonising vast swathes of our city centres. Not content with owning one or two sites, they are in the process of building vast culinary empires.

Yesterday, the process took a step further when one of ese new sovereigns of the culinary world, Belgo, announced the acquisition for £13.4m of a group that includes The Ivy and Le Caprice, two London eating institutions.

The Belgo chain itself, run by Andy Bassadone and Luke Johnson, the latter being the man who helped build up the Pizza Express group, has further plans for expansion.

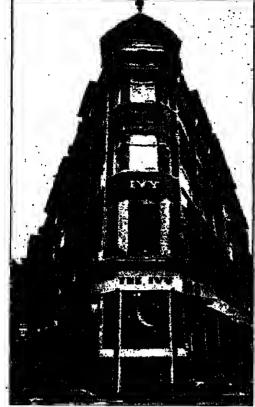
Once upon a time, restaurant chains meant Pizza Hut or Burger King. But the past few years have witnessed the emergence of a new phenomenon, the upmarket brand, as epitomised by Sir Terence Conran's ever-expanding group.

What fuels the apparently boundless ambitions of the restaurant barons like Conran and Johnson is an insatiable appetite on the part of the dining public for modern, stylish eating places where the image (trendy) and the decor (minimalist) are at least as important as the food cusually southern

Michael Gottlieb, president Chelsea, west London. of the Restaurateurs Association of Great Britain, associates this development with the end

"People not only wanted to pend money, they wanted to be "They wanted to be seen in the year when she criticised the right restaurant at the right

hristophe Novelli, are chefs cy of small, cosy places. est and businessmen second.





Style of

Minimalist, open, airy.



The Belgo group, controlled by Luke Johnson (right), formerly of Pizza Express, has made a £13.4m takeover of The Ivy (left and centre) Harriet Logan/Network

but none the less successful for dependent operator, echoes in their twenties who wanted to that. Novelli has gone from nothing to six restaurants in less than three years. Marco marches relentlessly on, invading Leeds, Bath and Oxford

It was Conran, though, who first made people aware of the fashionability of eating out. So, take one good idea and replicate it ad infinitum? Not so, sniffs a spokeswoman for Conran, who owns a raft of "in" places, including Bluebird in

with his MPW brand.

"We're not a chain, and we're not a multiple," she said. "All of our restaurants are complete-

Not everyone agrees. Fay Maschler, the veteran restau-Conranisation of the trade. His restaurants, she said, fostered Other key players, such as ...a, noisy anonymity that was a Marco Pierre White and Jean-million miles from the intima-

Mr Gottlieb, himself an in-

that sentiment, and says that he detects the first stirrings of a backlash. "I sense that people are starting to yearn for the type of personal service that you don't get in these places,"

Mark Hayes, editor of Hotel and Restaurant magazine, believes that the sttraction of the upmarket chains lies in their predictability. "It's a guarantee of quality, it's a restaurant with a track record," he says. "With a name like Marco Pierre White, you are assured of decent food."

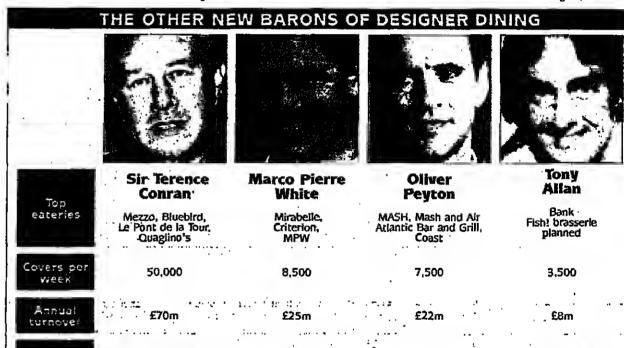
The name is important. Take Nico Ladenis, the chef who sold his two establishments. seen to spend money," he said. rant critic, ruffled feathers last couple of years ago. The new owners, the Restaurant Part "ston, Lancashire, once the highnership, are rolling out a chain of Nico restaurants around the has lost one of his two Miche-

social evolution behind the spread himself too thinly when

go out would go down the pub. Now they eat out. It has become an scceptable way to spend your leisure time and money. It's no longer about special occasions. It's about 8 way of

How far, though, can you stretch quality? Some critics believe that exclusivity is still a potent draw. Diners who patronise s Marco restaurant may not realise that their meals have not been cooked by the enfont terrible himself. The association is second-hand; the cooks will have been trained by

Marco in his style of cuisine. There is already one cautionary tale to be told. It concerns Paul Heathcote's eponymous restaurant, in Preest-rated place in the north. It lin stars, and the general con-Mr Bassadone identifies a sensus is that Mr Heathcote boom. "Ten years ago, people he opened further restaurants.



Affordable glamour or

Avant garde.

Very bright and

Paper prints false results but betting fraud fails

BY GREG WOOD

THE METROPOLITAN Police and senior staff at the Racing Post were yesterday trying to work out how - and by whom the results of four greyhound races were deliberately altered before they appeared in Monday's edition of the newspaper.

The changes were part of an attempted betting fraud that might have earned as much as £50,000 for those involved, and though it was only partially successful, at least one betting shop manager has learnt the hard way that you should not believe everything you read in the papers.

The four races involved took place at Reading and Yarmouth, two of the country's smallest greyhound tracks, on Saturday night. The correct results were transmitted to the Racing Post by the Press Association on Sunday morning. When they appeared in the following day's edition, however, the names of three of the winners had been changed. The starting price of a fourth, a hot favourite at 11-10, had been altered to a far more rewarding 3-1.

Since the closure of the sporting Life on 12 May the Racing Post is the only readily available source of information from the more obscure corners of the betting world.

Bets involving the four rogue winners, including several linking them together in rolling accumulators with total odds as high as 199-1, had been placed on Saturday evening at a number of betting shops. Most were in east London and Essex, including branches of William Hill, Coral and tha Tote, but a few found their way to a betting shop in Humberside.

The Racing Post, complete with its false results, arrived at the betting shops on Monday morning, and so did several punters hoping to collect their winnings". For various technical reasons, several bookmak-

ers were suspicious of the bets. Before long, the Betting Of-

fice Licensees' Association, the

HOW THE RESULTS APPEARED: Yarmouth

Reading

Off at: Winner and odds [1st&2nd] Forecast Time 7.35 Woodford Ash 3/1.....[263] £8.69 29.96 7.51 Kylles Mystery 2/1F... [6&2] £11.46 29.51 8.07 Room For Cally 6/4... [5&6] £6.96 29.06 8.22 Mid West Rose 2/1.... [563] £12.48 17.16 8.37 Master Pride 6/4F...,... [5&1] £16.64 28.85 8.53 Hedsor Hunter 5/2.... [1&3] £13.10 28.90

9.08 Kilacquinn 7/1 [283] £27.80 29.19. 9.23 Hideaway Point 6/4F.[4&2] £6.20 28.99 9.39 Jet 4/1.....[4&1] £12.48 28.79 9.54, Lisnaktil Roy 3/1F ... (142) / E7.83 28.90 10.10 Staplers Amber 5/4F. [5&2] £3.48 42.84 10.25 Dynamite Tina 5/1..... [5&6] £14.37 28.90

10.40 Lift The Wings 6/1.....[5&6] £11.05 29.15

Off at: Winner and odds [1st&2nd] Forecast Time 7.30 Beama Boy 9/4F...... [6&1] £8.31 28.95 7.47 Crown of Ossory 7/1. [3&6] £19.80 29.82 8.04 Cachem Meena 4/6F..[1&2] £4.19 29.76

8.21 Adders Lad 6/1........ [3&4] £41.58 29.58 8.38 Milistarr Sam 7/4F..... [5&6] £6.49 28.74 8.55 Kelmaneigh Mist 2/1F[4&5] £7.98 29.17 9.12: Sand Buster A/1F..... [261] -66:18:29.33

9.46 The Rigger 4/1F.......[6&2] £31.62 29.32 10.03 Cavell Arapaho 10/3.. [6&1] £7.39 42.16 10.20 Duhallow Pride 6/4F. [4&6] £16.64 28.87

HOW THEY SHOULD HAVE APPEARED:

9.08 Brothers Beech 6/1... [463] £27.80 29.14 9.12 Granard Class 17/10F[461] £6.18 29.33 9.54 Lisnakili Roy 11/10F...[162] £7.83 28.90 9.29 Decoy Elm 9/2........[366] £33.18 28.85/

major bookmakers' trade organisation, had been alerted. and a warning was issued that bookles should suspend payments on bets involving the races. The Racing Post informed the Metropolitan Police of the situation, and an investigation began into possible

A number of the hopeful punters were told that insufficient funds were available to pay them and asked to return later. None of them did.

Payment of all bets would have cost the Tote about £20,000 and Jennings, an Essex betting shop chain, £18,000. A William Hill outlet paid £200 on one bet before payments were suspended, while Coral handed over a similar amount, but the er systems of all the newspa-

been the Ted Hornby betting shop in Withernsea, near Hull. A £10 treble, apparently due a return of exactly £2,000 at odds of 199-1, was paid out at

the shop on Monday morning. "The bet itself wasn't unusual," Janet Alexander, the manager, said yesterday. "What was nnusual was that the three dogs copped at such big prices, but there no was reason to think there was anything untoward.

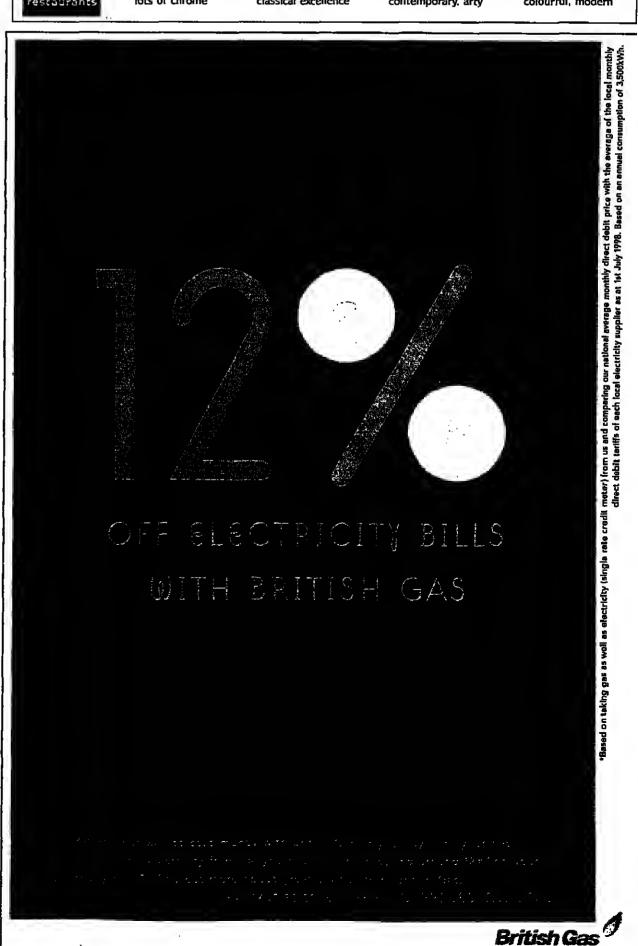
"How on earth anyone has managed to come as far as Withernsea with a scam like this is incredible. We're the last thing here before you fall into the North Sea." The police inquiry will start in the Post's offices, but such is

the integration of the comput-

tower in Docklands, east London - including The Independent - that it may be that anyone on one of several floors could have altered the relevant

Both the Post and the Police, however, will be hoping that their investigation does not take the same path as that which followed a similar case the Trodmore Hunt coup which took place exactly 100 years ago this month.

The Sporting Life was persuaded to carry the card for a fictitious race meeting, and then the "results", which were supplied from the same source the following day. A number of bookies paid out substantial bets on these races which never took place - and those inbiggest loser appears to have pers based in Canary Wharf volved were never caught.



SNP surge forces Blair to fly north

TONY BLAIR will visit Scotland By COLIN BROWN tomorrow to face growing fears that his hold on power in Labour's Scottish heartland and his party's strategy for de- The Independent has learned, volution are in danger of being wrecked by the SNP.

Amid growing panic at a sixcampaign for the Scottish Parliament in a fortnight with a "vision statement" attacking SNP support for independence.

Chief Political Correspondent

The party's spin doctors, are also planning to move campaign headquarters out of Keir Hardie House in Glasgow, a Vicleaders plan to relaunch their party has been located for more than a decade, into a new openplan office, possibly in Edin-hurgh where the Parliameet and the other parties are based.

Derek Draper, the former campaign control centre re-Labour "insider" and sacked flects the increasing mood of lobbyist, said Labour party workers fear that a defeat in Scotland - Labour's heartlands

- will have reverberations on the party in England, undermining Mr Blair's reputation as point lead by the SNP Labour torian town house where the a winner. The Tories have warned that devolution would unravel the union, but it could first unravei Labour's hold on power north of the border. The decision to move the

anxiety in the party at the failure of the summer offensive against the SNP to neutralise its lead over Labour.

general secretary of the Labour Party in London, will spearhead strategy in Scotland. He told party workers communication was impossible on four floors at Keir Hardie House

Mr Blair will hold a question-

and-answer session before joining the Queen in Balmoral for the weekend - the anniversary of the death of Diana, Princess

The Scottish Secretary, Don-Matthew Taylor, assistant ald Dewar will unveil the first stage in the fight back against the SNP on 11 September, 12 months after the referendum on Scottish devolution - with a "vision statement" attacking the SNP's focus on the break

A Labour Source said: "It will not be a manifesto. It is broader than that. It will attempt to engage in policy on local government, land reform, education, and what we want to do is create a bigger debate over the Autumn ... the Scottish Parlia-

has dismissed as a flop Labour's "summer of scrutiny".

by Mr Blair to Mr Dewar's cent that was oever realistic. side to beef up the Scottish campaign, began the summer offensive with an attack on the SNP over an alleged 15p tax attack vesterday at his home hike, but that quickly faded. Labour claims the offensive

is working, with the SNP's earment must not become a new elite just in Edinburgh." lier lead of 14 per cent being cut SNP leader, Alex Salmond, back in a poli last week to six points, with the SNP on 44 and Labour on 38. However, the Helen Liddell, the former SNP source said: "We never ex-

Treasury minister promoted pected to keep a lead of 14 per ■ The Scottish National Party deputy leader, Dr Allan Macartney, has died following a hear: Aberdeen.

Dr Macartney, who was 57, represented North East Scotland in the European Parliament since 1994. He was also a distinguished academic.

London

assembly

will have

revolutionise London politics were revealed in detail yester-

day when a blueprint was un-

veiled for the new strategic

Commission announced that

the proposed Greater London

Authority would carve the city

The authority which will act as a check on the powers of the

directly-elected mayor, will be

made up of 25 members in

total, with one representative for each voting area and 11 -

more taken proportionally from

pected to take place in the Spring of 2000 and will coincide

with the separate cootest for

The Government insists that the new body will not be a "son-of-GLC", but it will have

powers over planning, the en-

vironment, transport and even

It will also be able to query

Each of the members for the

the mayor's appointments and

14 constituencies will be elect-

ed under the traditional first-

The extra 11 will come from

portionally to reflect the support

the mayor for London.

policing in the capital.

past-the-post system.

of each of the parties.

his budget.

Elections to the GLA are ex-

a "top-up" list.

into 14 "mega-constituencies"

each with 350,000 voters.

The Local Government

authority for the capital

25 seats

BY PAUL WAUGH Political Correspondent THE GOVERNMENT'S plans to

Leading article, Review, page 3

Tory shadow who stayed in the sun

WITH THE chink of gin and BY COLIN BROWN tonic in the background, and the sun setting on the Aegean. Andrew Mackay last night packed his bags for his return to West-

Like scores of other MPs, the Tory spokesman on Northern Ireland is returning today to prepare for next week's special Commoos debate on the antiterror measures after the tragedy of the Omagh bomb.

He has spent the past fortnight with his wife, Julie Kirkbride, who is also a Tory MP, on the remote Greek Island of Symi where Tony Banks, the sports minister, was also spending his annual holiday. They were facing an tortuous journey home. The ferry from the small island was due to leave at 3.30am today for Rhodes to catch a 9am flight to Athens, play politics with 28 dead." and an afternoon connection to

In spite of being thousands of miles from the events in Ulster, Mr Mackay has kept in touch by telephone from the 15-bed Aliki Hotel. He was briefed by government officials in advance about the Prime Minister's recall of Parliament with the measures to be rushed through. On Friday he will visit Omagh. "I think the last thing people

Chief Political Correspondent

want in Northern Ireland when there has been a bombing is to be gawped at. I didn't want to go until the funerals were over," Mr Mackay said.

He was criticised for being on holiday in Namibia when the Good Friday peace agreement was signed, but his absence during the aftermath of the Omarh bombing was stoutly defended yesterday by Michael Ancram, the deputy Tory party chairman. Mr Mackay told The Inde-

Mowlam and Tooy Blair briefly broke their bolidays to go to Ireland because they have executive responsibility and needed to carry out various tasks ... the last thing that ooe wants is to It is unlikely that MPs or

pendent from his hotel: "Mo

ministers - such as John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, who was duty minister for most of August - will be told to break their holidays. The Tories are not planning

to vote against the short Bill, and the Government will be oble to marshal its massive majority in the Commons if there are unexpected problems in the Lords.



The House of Commons yesterday, where workmen have been removing asbestos from a loft above its ceiling. The Speaker of the House has accepted a request for the early recall of Parliament to strengthen anti-terror laws in the wake of the Omagh bombing

Neil Munns/PA

in favour. The results of the BAUK survey however con-

vinced them, and a spokesman

said they would implement the

change. "We recognise there

are advantages and disadvan-tages and we shall be working

IN BRIEF

Open verdict on death of toddler AN OPEN verdict was recorded today on the death of a toddler whose body was found on an isolated railway line. Doocaster coroner Stanley Hooper said it was unlikely Louis had died accidentally, but the hurden of proof was not sufficient to prove it was deliberate.

Batteries too highly charged

HIGH STREET chains are netting a 220 per cent mark-up oo batteries, a survey revealed. Research by Computeractive magazine found that a pack of four Duracell AA batteries, for instance, cost £3.99 at Dixons, £3.79 at Boots and £3.75 at Superdrug compared to £1.99 oo a market stall.

Fresh hopes in Essex fire strike FRESH TALKS are being arranged in a bid to find a breakthrough to the three-month-long Essex firefighters' dispute. Leaders of the Fire Brigades Union met brigade

officers yesterday and said they were hopeful of serious

Marriage to Gazza 'a health risk' PAUL GASCOIGNE'S wife, Sheryl, told a judge in a statement that marriage to the football player had damaged her health. Sheryi, 33, who was beaten by Gascoigne four

months after they married, was granted a "quickie" divorce

in London. Neither was present for the hearing.

The blueprint links boroughs together in a strategic way, linking areas such as Camden and Barnet, Greenwich and Lewisham and Hounslow with Richmond and Kingston. Local Government Commission chairman Professor

Malcolm Grant called for the public to respond actively to the proposals for each voting area. "Loodoners voted to create

a new strategic authority for the capital. The Greater Londoo Assembly will have a key role to play in its governance. I hope as many people as possible will make their views known to the commission," he said.

A spokesman for the Department of Transport, Environment and the Regions said: "This is a draft report for further consultation. We look forward to the final recom-

mendations in the autumn." The final date for represectations to the Commission is 13 October and a finished plan will be published in November.

Braille change angers blind readers

A "CAMPAIGN for Real Braille"
has been set up after plans to
introduce capital letters into the braille alphabet have split the blind community.

The Braille Authority of the United Kingdom (BAUK) has announced that by 2000 it is introducing capital letters into a code which has previously only used lower-case characters. Supporters say that it is nec-

essary because of the locreasing use of capitals as abbreviations, as well as their use in e-mail addresses. It will also bring the UK in line with other English-speaking coun-

But opponents, such as Sara Morgan, the 25-year-old founder of the campaign, argue it will push up costs and make hooks more cumhersome. "There areo't many industries

Social Affairs Correspondent

is particularly ironic, though, is the fact this is going to come in at the same time as the Disability Discrimination Act. So. just as we're asking restaurants to provide hraille menus we're making it more expensive to do

Braille, devised by Louis Braille in the 19th ceptury is based troop a system of six raised dots arranged to represent each character in the alphabet and several short-form words. Around 12,000 people use braille in this country.

BAUK said that it took the decision to go-ahead with plans to introduce capitals after a questionnaire completed by 1,200 hraille readers showed

The secretary of BAUK. have some ability to read by

Stephen Phippen, said: "The reason the decision was made was on the basis of the questionnaire, answered by individual members, not on what BAUK thought."

Overall 46 per cent of people were in favour of introducing a capital letter sign wherever a capital letter appears in print and just under 30 per cent were against. Among the respondents classing themselves as visually impaired (those who

sight) it was more popular compared to those who can read braille only by touch.

Ms Morgan said the figures showed "there wasn't even a majority". But Mr Phippen said: "Those in favour were more or less 50 per cent. Those against were roughly half that. So twice as many people are in favour as against.

A spokesman for the National Library for the Blind said a survey done by it in 1994/5 found readers were not

with our readers to help them understand how this symbol will operate," he said. The introduction of capital letters is projected to take place

"There are pros and cons." admits Mr Phippen. "But it should be noted that we are the only English speaking country which has not yet introduced capital letters and of all the other countries which have not one has regretted it and tried to move back."

by the end of 1999.

However Ms Morgan added: We are determined to fight it all the way. They have got to stop trampling over people's

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north 'Supergrasses' aid corruption inquiry at Met

UP TO NINE serving and retired BY JASON BENNETTO police officers are acting as "supergrasses" to inform on corrupt colleagues at Scotland during the next few months. Yard, it was revealed yesterday.

London

assembly

will have

25 seats

The huge scale of the corruption uncovered within the Metropolitan Police has resulted in up to 300 convictions being re-examined to discover whether innocent people have been jailed

Forty police officers have so far been suspended - including detectives from a witness protection unit - and nine serving and former officers have been charged in connection with

drugs and money allegations. In the largest anti-corruption drive for decades, about nine serving or retired officers have become informants.

come from the former South stow, east London, and four East Regional Crime Squad (SERCS), which investigated major criminals, and the Flying Squad, the unit that targets armed robbers.

Most of the so-called "supergrasses" have offered to inform on their colleagues in the hope of receiving more lepient sentences for their own wrong-

Among the informants are mation and sabotaging cases. two former Flying Squad officers, and one detective constable who was attached to the former SERCS, and was arrested in connection with ille-

gal drug activities. As more officers are prepared to turn "informer" - in one case a detective is understood to have named up to 30 allegations of police corrup-tion is expected to rise sharply tives planted evidence against

Crime Correspondent

As the inquiry by the specialist anti-corruption units CIB2 and CIB3 widens, a growing number of officers are being suspended and charged in connection with offences - including drug dealing, taking bribes, robbery, tampering with eviden ce, and even helping out with contract killings. Corrupt officers have made hundreds of thousands of pounds from their

Six officers from the Special Witness Protection Unit have been suspended following allegations of "financial irregularities", along with 17 from the Flying Squad unit based at The bulk of the officers have Rigg Approach in Walthamfrom the former South East Regional Crime Squad.

illegal activities.

The most senior officer so far to be suspended is a detective chief inspector

A woman official of the Crown Prosecution Service has also been arrested by the Yard's anti-corruption team over allegations involving the supplying of confidential infor-

One consequence of the inquiries is the large number of previous cases that involved suspected "bent" officers that

could be over-turned on appeal. A special Miscarriages of Justice Unit at Scotland Yard in examining about 300 cases stretching back two decades. There are believed to be up to fellow officers - the number of 10 men serving long jail sen-

them. Once officers start being convicted, dozens of convicted criminals are expected to appeal against their sentences.

The latest development in the anti-corruption investigations, revealed by senior police sources, follows a pledge by Sir Paul Condon, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, to stamp out wrong-doing by his

Sir Paul has estimated that up to 250 of his 27,000-strong force are corrupt.

A police source said that corruption was a "way of life" for the core of the suspected of-



ficers - who are believe to total Sir Anthony Hopkins in Snowdonia yesterday; the actor has pledged £1m to the National Trust for its Snowdon Appeal. The Trust intends to buy more than 4,000 acres on the slopes of the mountain, but a further £2m is needed by the end of October. Wednesday Review, page 9 Tom Pilston

THE HEAT IS ON. O% FINANCE OVER 3 YEARS MUST END THIS WEEK.

Mégane

Water jets will mean injections with no needle By JEREMY LAURENCE

Health Editor

A NEW device that could replace the hypodermic syringe by delivering injections under the skin without a needle is to start clinical trials this year.

The Intraject delivers a single shot of liquid under pressure through a tiny hole in its tip. The very fine, high-pressure jet is powerful enough to penetrate the outer layers of the skin and is said to be almost

If effective in the trials, the device could be used to deliver vaccines or other drugs reducing the risks associated with needles which can cause infections and are difficult to dispose of safely. It would also be a boon for people who are have a fear of needles.

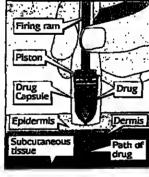
Weston Medical, the manufacturer, plans to use the device to deliver a new drug being developed by the pharmaceutical company, Hoffman La Roche, to treat hepatitis C which requires patients to have weekly injections. It also plans to use it with a flu vaccine.

A spokeswoman for the company said Intraject had advantages for people who were frightened of injections.

"People who have used say it is like flicking your skin with your fingertip. You feel it but it isn't painful. It also reduces the anticipation of pain which is half the problem with needles," she

The device, about the size of a marker pen, contains a pressurised gas container which is used to drive the medicine through the skin into the fatty layer of subcutaneous tissue

The safety band is removed and the device pressed against the skin triggering release of the gas which forces the medicine out in a fine high pressure day.



jet. Once it has penetrated the outer layers of the skin, it spreads out in the subcutaneous layer leading to im-

Larger, needle less injectors have been used in the past and over the past 50 years there have been 300 patents applied for, according to the company. But it claims this is the first lightweight, pre-filled, dis-posable version that is simple

However, its price, estimated at 60-75 pence a shot, is almost 10 times the cost of a disposable syringe which could rule out its widespread use by the NHS for the foreseeable

The spokeswoman said: "It is a lot because they are very cheap but you have to consider its benefits. It may be possible for patients to use it themselves at home so there is no need for them to go to the doctor and there is no risk of needle stick injuries."

The British Diabetic Association said it would not be suitable for diabetics, who require daily injections of insulin for life, because the device has to be pre-filled with a fixed amount of drug.

Diabetics require varying amounts of insulin from day to

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AIR CONDITIONING AND ABS BRAKES AS STANDARD



Teacher recruitment hits low point

RECRUITMENT TO secondary BY JUDITE JUDD school teaching is plummeting Education Editor and fewer people are applying to teach mathematics than at any time for more than a statistics from the Graduate decade, according to new fig-

Head Teachers warned that compares the number of stugraduate recruitment is lagging dents who have accepted well behind government targets in every subject except PE and history. It said that only a sub-

would halt the decline. Official Teacher Training Registry for one-year postgraduate Certifi-The National Association of cate of Education applicants places on teacher training courses this year with the same figure in mid-August last year. Mathematics is down by show a reduction apart from

A spokesman for the association said: "While the overall there are particularly alarming figures for maths and physics. These statistics have severe implications for the quality of fu-

ment that last autumn they classics, although primary began a £1.5m advertising cam-teaching acceptances are up. paign based on the slogan: "No one forgets a good teacher". But today's figures suggest position is extremely serious, that the campaign has, so far, made little impact.

The Government is due to publish a Green Paper on teacher recruitment later this ture maths and physics year It is expected to propose Government's public sector tyunless significant salary inteaching and for students' reperformance-related pay to atpay policy. Any pay settlement creases are awarded to the

to only 40 per cent of the Government target for this year, in sciences 60 per cent, in modern languages 64 per cent and in information technology 48 per

The association's general secretary, David Hart, said: sis poses a major threat to tha

nearly a third and physics by 89 suits." Ministers are so con-per cent. All secondary subjects cerned about teacher recruit-ematics, acceptances amount with its inflation target of 2.5 per cent will serve only to make the crisis even worse.

"Government pleas for pay restraint in the private sector and threats of sanctions against so-called fat cats in the utility companies will not recruit one extra teacher. Schools will not "The teacher recruitment cri- recruit teachers of the right quality and in the right quanti-

picture slightly but said it would Government's targets in most

The survey notes that the mathematics figures are even worse than those in the mideighties, the previous low point. A spokesman for the Department for Education said: "The Government is concerned

acknowledged that last-minute starting courses in maths and acceptances might change the science. The Green Paper will offer the first fundamental look take a "quantum leap" to hit the for many years at teaching as a profession. We are going to ensure that we attract, retain and motivate the brightest and best

He pointed out that targets for primary school teachers were being met: the Government's pledge to reduce infant

Professor has world's first silicon chip implant

A BRITISH SCIENTIST has be- BY STEVE CONNOR come the first known person to have a silicon chip surgically implanted into his body in an experiment that raises the prospect of a man-machine cyborg.

cybernetics at Reading University, underwent the operation on Monday to place a chip problems, qualifications, prior under the skin of his forearm to study the control of intelligent huildings run by computers.

The chip emits a unique idencan recognise to operate various electronic devices, such as room lights, door locks or lifts.

Professor Warwick said that implanting a silicon chip is the ultimate form of electronic tagging and is more permanent and secure than carrying a smart card, "The potential for this technology is enormous. It is quite possible for an implant to replace an Access or Visa card. There is very little danger in losing an implant or baving it stolen," he added.

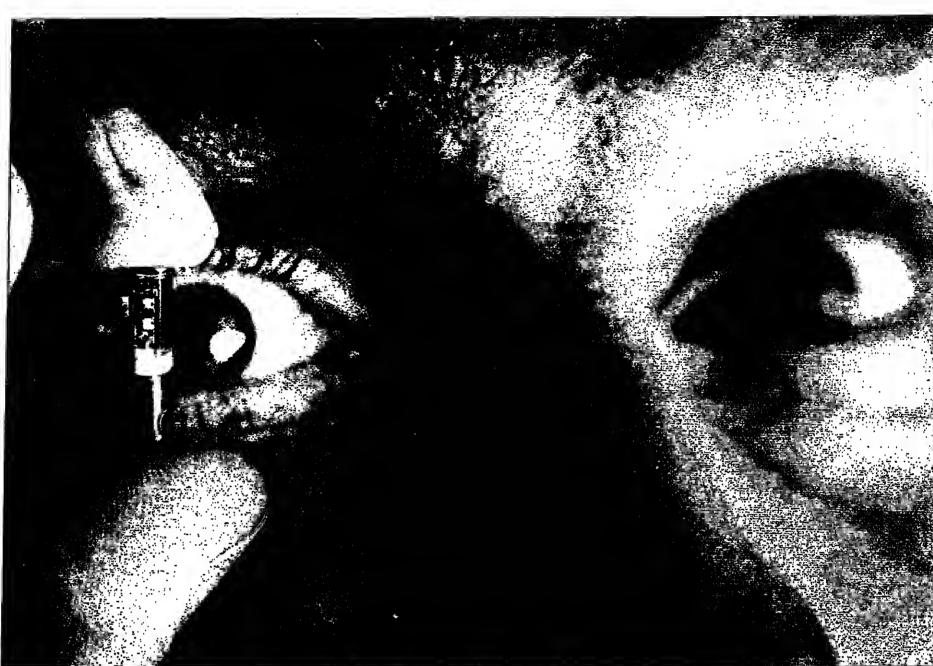
The implant, which is 23mm long and 3mm wide, emits its man nerves. "Human intelliunique signal only in the presence of radio frequency waves sent from transmitters placed around an intelligent huilding. mans, humans can stay ahead," 'An implant could carry Professor Warwick said.

dividual, such as national insurance oumber and hlood type, with this data being updated Kevin Warwick, professor of and added to where oecessary," he said. "It could contain information on any medical coovictions and even speeding fines. It would be difficult to lie or cover up such information."

A chip implant could avoid tifying signal that a computer the need to use car keys and would make vehicles more secure, and it could be used to buy train tickets. It would also help a range of organisations to keep track of people.

"Individuals with implants could be clocked in and out of their business automatically. But all this smacks of Big Brother. An individual might not even be able to visit the toilet without a machine knowing about it," the professor said.

Scientists are also working on silicon chip implants that can communicate directly with hugence needs to keep up with the intelligence of machines. If we implant silicon chips into hu-



Man and machine meet under the skin for the first time, with Professor Kevin Warwick showing off the 'smart' silicon chip now implanted in his forearm

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Anger as jeans commercial shows death of hamster

BY PAUL MCCANN Media Editor

PROVING THE old adage that the best way to offend the British public is to do something unpleasant to a small animal, television watchdogs have been swamped with complaints about an advert that apparently shows a dead hamster.

The Independent Television Commission, has received more than 200 complaints since Levi's started screening a jeans advert starring Kevin the ham-ster on Thursday.

The response from viewers was unprecedented, said the ITC, and represented a very quick reaction to the ad. Most complaints are that

the advert is in bad taste and that it is upsetting for children. The advert shows a seemingly happy and healthy Kevin running on his wheel until his wheel breaks.

Depression sets in and the advert ends with a dead hamster being prodded with a



Kevin the hamster, star of the 'disgusting' Levi's ad

placed on it to stop it being shown during children's programmes, but it could still he shown before the 9pm

"I'm not sure that a 7.30 restrictioo would have made much difference with the aged 10 to 11 hamster-owning age group," said an ITC spokespulled, but a spokesman for the company said that it had only been scheduled to run for one

Levi's provoked outrage when it ran an advert starring a transsexual in a taxi - its advertising has always been con-

sidered cutting-edge.
The Levi Strauss spokesman added: "The aim of the shock or offend but to entertain

"No animals were harmed or suffered any discomfort during the filming of the ad."

Tony Readwin, the National Animal Welfare Trust's spokesman, hranded the advert 'disgusting" and said that the company had plainly intended it to he as provocative as

He added: "It was obviously going to cause concern for a lot of people and it's got a lot of coverage.

Mr Readwin likeoed the advert to the much-criticised Benettoo clothes campaign.

The RSPCA were less critical, saying the advert of the "dead" hamster was a matter of taste for viewers.

It had not been informed of any animal cruelty, it added. The advert is yet to be investigated by the ITC, but complaints about offence are oot frequeotly upheld: misleading adverts tend to take up more of

Cozy Powell died in the fast lane

THE SEVENTIES rocker Cozy By KATE WATSON-SMYTH Powell, who once said that he drove cars like he drummed madly - was on the phone to his girlfriend as he hurtled down a wearing his seatbelt, an inquest heard yesterday.

Powell, who played with Black Sabbath, Rainbow and Whitesnake, was killed when his powerful black Saab 9000 turho had a puncture on 5 April,

He was driving up the M4, near Bristol, on his way to visit his girlfriend Sharan Reeve in Cardiff. She heard a "terribly loud noise", then silence, as she talked to him on the phone.

In a statement, Ms Reeve

her he was baving problems finding fifth gear, and hoped the motorway at 104mph without engine would not seize up as he was going so fast.

Then she heard him say: "Oh shit", and the line went silent. She kept trying to ring him back until she realised something was wrong and contacted the police. Powell, 50, was found to be slightly over the drink-drive limit after the car

came to rest on its roof. Paul Forrest, the Bristol coroner, recorded a verdict of accidental death.

spun, hit the central kerb, and

VIAGRA CORNER

DESPATCHES FROM THE FRONTIERS OF MEDICINE

IMPOTENCE MYTHS are the same the world over, according to a global survey of men's attitudes to sexual dysfunction, commissioned by Pfizer, the manufacturer of Viagra.

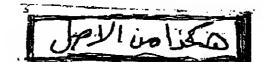
A poll of more than 4.000 men from 10 countries today showed that half the respondents in each country thought impotence was caused by psychological factors such as

stress and anxiety. Fewer than 25 per cent correctly identified high blood pressure and diabetes as two of the most common conditions behind impotence. One in three thought impotence

was a natural consequence of



ageing. Alcohol was cited as the leading cause of impotence by Germans, Moroccans and Swedes. JOHN VON RADOWITZ



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Who decides when and
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than your mortgage. Your credit cards could be even finances all over the place with each thing belonging lf you're like most people, you probably have your higher. But it's likely that any savings you have pay you rules. Your loans could cost a higher rate of interest In its own jam-jar. And working with a different set of if you want instant access. Then if you want a much lower rate. And this tends to fall even more common. Your money. thing that all these jam-jars have in It back early. In fact, there's only one could get penalised if you want to pay the best rates for loans or mortgages,

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secured bank account with The Royal Bank of Scotiand, you can use your cashpoint

Remortgaging their two bedroomed house in Horsham, the couple agreed a launched in October of last year. customers when the account became one of Virgin One's first Elizabeth and Patrick Molineux SPM

whole philosophy appealed to me. The One account gives us complete control, allowing us to keep our money where it "I was very excited about the account" said Elizabeth "its tion to spend less and pay off our loan as quickly as possible." works hardest for us all the time. The monthly statements There's been none of the frustrating experiences I had with my "Dealing with the staff at Virgin Direct could not have been easier. make It clear where we stand, and that's been a good motlvaexisting mortgage debt plus a contingency amount.

facility of £83,000 with Virgin, to cover their

efficient staff who want to help you. We haven't looked back."

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card mach This of your assets Make the most salary in and leave as much of it in the account as you want. in value, and then pay it back in when it suits you. That means there are no set monthly repayments, you just pay your to us. This lets you use the equity in your home as it goes up car or some fumiture, a holiday or a hobby, it doesn't matter On the \mathbf{o} ther hand, if you want to save money by reducing your loan as quickly as possible you can do that too. have, you reduce your borrowings and therefore the interest Bec Having recently started up his own IT recrultment business, schemes laid down by other mortgage providers. He prefers Luke Iones has just bought his first flat in Kensington, west means I can make larger repayments If I want to, I don't have the fact that with a Virgin One account he can pay back his account like this: it's so completely mortgage off and that's the whole joy of an "The account is effectively an overdraft facility. This flexible. In fact, since I moved in specific plans about when I want to pay the your mortgage off early. can have the money straightaway. Whether it's for a means that when ines in the UK. larch, i have aiready paid off He has a facility of around £110,000. cause you pay y**o**ur saiary in, pius any savings that you in over 20,000 chunk of my borrowme loan at his own convenience. ce did not want to tie himseif down to the regular payment idon and has opted for the Virgin One account to finance an i incurred." gher moving gs as I budgeted for of £S). Source: Moneyfacts, August 1998 REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LO

One in ten of the world's tree species are facing extinction

TEN PER CENT of the world's tree species - including 11 types in the UK - are facing extinction, according to a report published today. Uncontrollable forest fires,

illegal logging and the expansion of human settlements are blamed for the demise, described after three years of study by conservation groups

The project found that more than 8,750 of the world's 80,000 to 100,000 tree species are under threat. Almost 1,000 tree types are believed to be "critically endangered" and some species have been reduced to single figures. In Britain the most endangered species, of the Sorbus variety, is down to the teens and twenties in some areas, despite the growing success of a scheme backed by British retailers to use timber taken only from properly managed forests. The report, carried out by

the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN), will be launched at the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests in Geneva today, where delegates are tackling the growing crisis facing the world's forests.

Dr Steve Howard, head of the WWF's global forest and tree initiative, said yesterday: "With 77 species already extinct, this report has now confirmed our worst nightmare. The governments gathering this week must now realise the sense of urgency to increase forest protection, eliminate illegal logging and improve forest management."

Sarah Oldfield of the WCMC said: "We have found that threats to tree species are increasing and that unless conservation action is taken immediately, some species face certain extinction and many others will be joining threatened trees."

Felling for timber and wood fuel, agriculture, expansion of human settlements and uncontrolled forest fires are tified as coming from well-

THREATENED Threat category: Extinct Extinct in the wild Critically endangered Endangered Vulnerable 3,609 Lower risk: Lower risk: Data deficient (extent of threat not known) Globally threat Australian tree Globally threatened Japanese tree species Total number 10 MOST ENDANGERED

Name	Population
Diospyros kat Uganda	endel, 20
Sorbus wilmo	ttiana, UK 20
Picea martine Mexico	zii. 15
Voanloala gera Madagascar	ardii, 10
Quercus x tan	difolia, USA 5
llex Khasiana,	India 3/4
Eschweilera p French Guyan	
Holmskioldia (gigas, Kenya 1
Carpinus puto	ensis, China 1
Diospyros ang Mauritius	ulata, 1/2

with retailers in the UK who will the report, which was funded by

EDVICOD ing people in Britain to ease the global crisis by buying only gether to do something about timber that the Forest Stewthe problem. Members of the ardship Council (FSC) has cergroup source as much of their timber products as possible

among the factors threaten- managed forests. The WWF from FSC supplies," said Ed they manage these forests to are not subject to any consering tree species, according to has set up a business initiative Matthew, a WWF spokesman.

He added: "The scheme is alsell wood only from approved ready proving to be a success. from retailers, more foresters from around the world are in-

They are changing the way

Researchers for the report -The World List of Threatened Trees - found that more than 75 per cent of threatened species group. The ones described as

to take off."

ensure it complies with the vation measures. Only 12 per standards. There are now 10 cent are recorded in protected Leyana), with only 16 trees | water, but demand for it, such million hectares of FSC forest areas and only 8 per cent of surviving in two sites in Brecultivation.

> The 11 species listed as threatened with extinction in the UK are all in the Sorbus

"critically endangered" include Ley's Whitebeam (Sorbus Wilmottiana, which has been reduced to 20 trees in the Avon Gorge. Quarrying and log-

felling are among the reasons

blamed for their plight.

quality divides

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

THERE IS now a clear divide in water quality between the north-west and south-east of the country, according to figures released by the Environment Agency.

Although water quality improvement has continued or been maintained in the northwest, Wales, the Midlands and the south-west, it has declined in the Southern, Thames and Anglian regions - the areas hit

hardest by low rainfall. An Environment Agency spokesman said yesterday: "In low flowing, warmer rivers like those in the south-east there is less dissolved oxygen than in cooler, fast flowing rivers of the north and west. River wildlife needs oxygen to survive and the lack of dissolved oxygen could have a serious impact."

Algae, which is more prevalent in low-flowing warmer rivers, also affects the amount of dissolved oxygen in a river and many rivers in the southeast are fed by groundwater springs, which contain less dissolved oxygen than surface waters,

The latest results show that last year the chemical quality of river water was 21 per cent better than in 1990, the baseline year against which such changes are now measured. This is not as good as for the previous two years - 1996 (26 per cent) and 1995 (28 per cent).

Yesterday's report by the Environment Agency called for investigations into the effect of the changing weather patterns on rivers and canals and warned that, if nothing was done, there could be a "severe impact" on the amount of water available to the public, industry and the environment.

Dr Jan Pentreath, the Environment Agency's chief scientist, said that climate change will affect not only the supply of as increased crop irrigation in

He said the situation could be aggravated by other factors, such as the 4.4 million new homes that are planned for the south-east.



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British science best in

Europe'

COOL BRITANNIA has invaded the hallowed halls of academe. British science has come out top in a survey of European centres of scientific excellence.

and Moscow as the leading research centre in Europe with scientists in the British capital publishing more high-quality research papers than anywhere

on the Continent. Cambridge also comes first best science is produced per head of its population, compared with any other universi-

ty city on this side of the Atlantic. The message is pride. British scientists can hold their beads up." said Christian Matthiessen, professor of geography at the University of Copenhagen, who has spent more than a year assessing the scientific output of 39 European

Scientists in Landon propapers between 1994 and 1995 compared with nearly 46,000 by Parisian researchers and 40,000 Frankfurt and Cologne. by scientists based in Moscow.

Taking into account the differences in population size. Cambridge scientists were the

	PE'S TO	
Ciry	Yotal papers	Per apita
Landon	64.742	7
Paris	49,752	5

Moscon	39,903	3
Amsterdam. The Hagae. Rotterdam, Utrecht	36.158	10
Copenhagen, 1 und	≥1,631	11
Stockholm, Uppsala	20.195	12
Berlin	19,872	5

Munchesier, Liverpool 18,693 5 17.764 81

most productive, publishing 81 entres of scientific excellence.
London has beaten Paris research papers per head of the city's population with Oxford coming second with 41 papers

per capita.

Professor Matthiessen said it was the first time anybody had tried systematically to study the relative scientific prowess of different urban cenas the place where more of the tres, although companies wanted to know which city was the best for investment in research and development.

The Danish team spent a year defining the boundaries of different urban centres and decided that some cities, such as terdam and Utrecht, were so closely integrated that they could be treated as one centre.

British urban centres such as Oxford and Reading, Edinburgh Scientists in London pro-duced nearly 65,000 research and Liverpool came behind Berlin but outperformed the German centres of Munich. Professor Matthiessen said

that, although London was much larger than many other capital cities in Europe and had an in-built advantage of size, it would still rank highest in the league table.

The sheer size of the research community in London is very large, but they are very productive," he said.

London came top in six out of ten leading categories of research, excelling in the fields of blochemistry, medicine, neuroscieoce, immunology, environmental sciences and biotechnology. London scientists produced

the most research papers in more than half of the 162 fields of science analysed by Profes-



Stomp displays the raw materials - dustbins and their lids - from which its art has grown to win an Emmy nomination

Award-winning dance film is consigned to the TV dustbin

A BRITISH film nominated for BY PAUL MCCANN an Emmy and made by Stomp, the innovative British dance and percussion group, has failed to find a UK television company interested in showing it despite selling in more than 100 countries overseas.

Stomp Out Loud, a 50-minute special filmed in the streets of New York for HBO, the American cable company, has been nominated for best direction, best art direction, best sound and best editing in the Emmys, American television's equivalent of the Oscars. It was shown on US television last December:

Media Editor

America, Europe and Asia, so far no British broadcaster has bought the UK rights to the

Storop is the Brighton-based group that became famous when it made an advertisement for Heineken that showed its members banging dustbin lids. Stomp has since travelled the world with its live show, made adverts for Coca-Cola, appeared on stage at the Oscar ceremony last year and featured on albums by artists including Quincy Jones.

Yet despite selling in Latin In the past it has won a British broadcaster might yet for two dance series this year. London in 1994.

Olivier, Obie and Drama Desk show an interest. The problem Awards for its theatre perfor-

"Stomp Out Loud tells a love story through dance, drumming and banging things," says Fred Hassan, bead of Yes/No Productions, which made the film. "It is an amazing piece of work - like a percussion West Side Story. It filled a cinema in Brighton when we had a showing and it's

broadcaster wants to air it." Mike Morris, who is handling negotiations for the sale of

has been the nature of the programme, Broadcasters don't know if it is an arts documentary or an entertainment

"Programme acquisition people usually have very specific remits about what their budget is for and what they can buy. As a consequence it has been getting passed around because no one is sure if it is their area."

a great shame no British A spokesman for Channel 4 said the film was rejected band's stage show because it did not come up to Stomp won an O sales agency ITEL, is hopeful dards, nordid it fit with its plans

Stomp was formed in 1991 by Luke Cresswell and Steve McNicholas, two members of the street band Pookiesnackenburger, and the theatre group Cliff Hanger The two groups had presented street comedy musicals at the Edinburgh Festival throughout the

albums and touring Europe. The "Bins" commercial for Heineken Lager was originally written and choreographed by Luke Cresswell as part of the

early 1980s before producing

Stomp won an Olivier after the show at the programme -the company's editorial starialities sell-out run at Sadler's

Nurses ʻpaid a fifth of worth'

By GLENDA COOPER Social Affairs Correspondent

NURSING MANAGERS are paid as little as a fifth of their counterparts in the private sector, according to a new survey by a

An investigation was started by the Nursing Standard after Julia Fearon, a nursing ward manager announced publicly at a Royal College of Nursing council meeting that she was leaving the profession because of staff shortages and poor pay. After 17 years she earned just £21,440 a year.

But recruitment consultants told the journal that a manager with the equivalent training and responsibility of Ms Fearon working in marketing, retail, accountancy, design and marketing could command a salary of between £30,000 and £100,000.

Unions warned that unless pay was addressed throughout the profession, the crisis of nursing recruitment would not be resolved. While the Government has promised an extra 15,000 nurses for the National Health Service to try to solve recruitment problems, there are currently 8,000 nursing vacan-cies. Of roughly 500,000 nurses nationwide, a quarter are eli-gible for retirement in the next

Figures released earlier this month show that new admissions to the register of the regulatory body for nursing, midwifery and health visiting are at their lowest level yet.

As a nursing ward manager Ms Fearon's responsibilities included a staff of 31, with 24hour responsibility for her department and development of an annual business plan.

The Royal College of Nursing will present its evidence to the Pay Review Body for next year's nurses' pay award in the next few weeks.

"This story is evidence of how little our nursing managers are valued despite the huge amount of responsibility they have got." said an RCN spokeswoman. "It is time to remodels for the future that we are in danger of losing."



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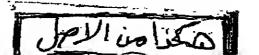
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Kabila back home as allies bomb rebels ON THE back of military assistance from his Angolan and Zimbabwean allies, Congo's embattled President, Laurent and Angolan air power A rebel There was no independent newspaper said more than 940 people were killed in Sunday's embattled President, Laurent and Angolan air power A rebel There was no independent newspaper said more than 940 people were killed in Sunday's embattled President, Laurent and Angolan air power A rebel There was no independent newspaper said more than 940 people were killed in Sunday's pent lefted Mr Kabil oust president Mobutu Sess Seko, the long-time replication of the region, then left be known that Unita also has. There was no independent newspaper said more than 940 people were killed in Sunday's pent lefted Mr Kabil oust president Mobutu Sess Seko, the long-time replication of the region, then left be known that Unita also has. Meanwhile, evidence grew

Kinshasa yesterday and rejected any conciliation or negotiation with the rebel army teeking to depose him

Worth

eking to depose him. "The people must be com-pletely mobilised and armed to crush the aggressors," he said on state radio, urging people to take up spears, bows and arrows to kill Tutsis. "The result is certain. They will lose the war everywhere ... Victory belongs to the Congolese people."

Mr Kabila's confidence was presumably lifted by the reports of the arrival of Zimbabwean

said his forces 50km southwest of Kinshasa were facing a second day of intense attack by gunships. "Yesterday, our positions were heavily attacked by Angolan and Zimbabwean warplanes and the result was that hundreds of people were killed - mainly men, women and children living in surrounding vil-

lages," Mr Karaha said. He said the aircraft also yesterday bombed Kisangani, the north-eastern city the rebels said they captured on Sunday.

Angolan army units continned to pour into the former Zaire and advance towards rear MiG fighter jets and helicopter rebel positions south of Kinshasa. Congolese state radio said the Congo river port of Borna had been retaken from the rebels, sealing off their last line of retreat. "On the western front the war has taken a decisive turn with the capture by the Congolese armed forces and their allies of the military hase at Kitona and the towns of Muanda, Banana and Boma ' the morning news report said.

that the decades-old Angolan conflict between the government's MPLA forces and the Unita rebel group had found a new battleground in Congo, shattering the fragile 1994 peace accord. Unita said yesterday it had interests to defend in Congo hut stopped short of openly acknowledging support for the insurrection against President Kabila

Unita cannot accept, for any reason, Angola's military intervention" in Congo, the group said in a statement from its strong-

A Unita representative in Lisbon, Rui Oliveira, said his movement could not provide military support to the Congolese rebels because it had demobilised all its troops as part of the peace accord.

However, the Angolan government claims that Unita has some 25,000 troops hidden in the bush. The entry of Angola into Congo's civil war may be driven by government concerns that Mr Kabila's departure could usher in a new administration that is sympaleader, Jonas Savimbi. In remm, Mr Kabila agreed to cut

off Unita's supply lines across

the two countries' border. Uganda said yesterday that troops it sent to Congo months ago under an agreement with Mr Kabila would remain there because of the breakdown of law and order.

The Foreign Minister, Eriya Kategaya, told parliament in Kampala that Uganda had not taken sides in the conflict. Mr Kabila accuses both Uganda and Rwanda of supporting the

President Yoweri Museveni, to country was threatened.

explain the government's involvement in the Congo crisis and to explain why troops eign country without legislative authorisation.

Mr Kategaya said Ugandan troops were in north-eastern and eastern Congo under an agreement reached early this year with Kinshasa to allow them to flush out Ugandan rebel groups. "When Kabila came [to Kampalal, we agreed that our army operates in the Congo

thetic to Unita. Angola last rebels, who have seized most of to ensure that rebels do not at-

He said President Museveni could by law bypass several progaya, a long-time associate of cedures if the security of the

Mr Kategaya said that despite the entry of Angola and Zimbabwe into the conflict on were being deployed in a for- Mr Kabila's side, Uganda contimued to recognise Mr Kabila's government and did not support the war.

In signs of concerted rebel activity inside Uganda, at least 28 people died in two explosions on buses traveiling from Kampala to the countryside. In a third explosion, a child was injured on a bus travelling out of

US strives *to justify air strike on Sudan

UNITED STATES officials have BY PETER CAPELLA been scrambling to provide in Geneva and more information about the Sudanese factory destroyed in last week's attacks.

The fresb attempts to prove that it was a chemical weapons plant, from an intelligence briefing by the US on Monday, suggest America feels it has to make more of an effort to explain why it chose to bit the factory.

Sudan says the plant was just a pharmaceutical factory and has invited the international community to verify this. Critics of the US have said if the plant were a chemical weapons factory, then it would have released lethal material after the

tured a precursor chemical, not VX gas itself. Nor would it be possible for untrained observers to see if the plant had been making this chemical, which would have taken up only a small part of the complex,

US officials claim. They say they had found traces of a key precursor chemical in soil samples from the factory The chemical - O-ethyl methyl-phosphonothioic acid, or EMPTA - cannot be used for anything apart from the V-se-

ries nerve gases, the US claims. "It is a substance that has no commercial applications, it doesn't occur naturally in the environment, it's not a by-product of any other chemical process. The only thing you can use it for, that we know of, is to make VX," a US intelligence of-

However, the official would not say how the sample was obtained.

Chemical weapons experts believe the evidence presented so far is not strong enough. They point out that key components of chemical weapons ANDREW MARSHALL in Washington

have "dual use" and are also used in medicines, even bubble bath and shampoo.

Alfred Frey, a chemical weapons expert working for the United Nations, said yesterday that the name given was not conclusive scientific evidence that the plant was contributing to nerve gas production. "It could be a sign of degradation of VX, but this would not be sufficient." he said

Mr Frey, a scientist with AC Labor, a Swiss laboratory that is currently examining parts of Washington has responded an Iraqi missile warhead for traces of the deadly nerve gas. added: "That would tell me I found this product [the compound] and no more.

Mr Frey, a weapons inspector in Iraq, said: "Of course it raises questions."

Beyond some anti-cancer drugs, he believes that few pharmaceutical products use phosphorus compounds.

Several phospborus com-

pounds are listed as "dual use" chemicals under schedule two and three of the 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention. Of its 168 signatories, 114 countries have ratified the ban on the production, use and stockpiling of chemical weapons. Sudan has not joined the convention, nor have Libya, Iraq and North Korea. All are regarded as high-risk countries by disar-

mament experts. America also says the plant had links to Iraq. One of Iraq's leading chemical weapons experts, Emad al-Ani, had "close ties" with senior Sudanese officials at the factory, and with other plants around Khartoum. The US has said that it

learnt of these ties from inter-

cepts of conversations between the plant and Iraqis and other Saudi Arabian. Sudanese. Previous reports

have indicated that the main centre for electronic intelligence gathering in the region was the US embassy in Nairobi, Kenya - which was itself the target of a car bomb, triggering the strikes on Sudan and Afghanistan. President's visit.

The telephone intercepts also showed continuing links both to Osama hin Laden. whom Americans accuse of a campaign against the US, and to military officials in Khar-

tourn, the US says. Mr bin Laden twice ordered assassination plots against President Bill Clinton, US newspapers reported vesterday. The reports, attributed to US intelligence and security sources, amear linked to the proceedings of a New York grand jury. which spent about a year examining the case against Mr bin

Laden, and resulted in a sealed indictment against the former

The first assassination attempt was due to take place when Mr Clinton visited the Philippines in November 1994, New York newspapers reported. It was aborted because of the security surrounding the

Ramzi Yousef - later convicted of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing - was the intended hitman. A second attempt was to have been made during the President's intended visit to Pakistan in February this year. The visit was cancelled. Yousef admitted to the Philippines attempt when he was arrested in 1995 in Pakistan. But the link to Mr bin Laden was provided by Wali Khan Amin Shah, one of his aides, the newspapers said.

> Letters. Review, page 2



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Phoney jobs inquiry extends to Juppé

FRANCE'S FORMER prime By CLAIRE WATSON minister, Alain Juppé, is under formal investigation over his role in an affair where fictitious iobs were created on the Paris city payroll for members of his

conservative RPR party. Patrick Desmure, the judge presiding over the investigation, informed Mr Juppe, who is now deputy mayor of Bordeaux, of his decision last Friday, though judicial sources only confirmed it yesterday.

The judge is investigating a system under which workers on the city hall payroll were actually working for the Rally for the Republic party, which Jacques Chirac founded before be became President and on which Mr Juppé served as secretary general.

Paris's city council under Mr Chirac, then the mayor of Paris. Should there be sufficient ev-

idence, Mr Juppé will be charged with abuse of power. He was due to appear on French television to discuss the accusations last night. Michel Roussin, the former

RPR Minister for Aid and Cooperation and former director of Mr Chirac's city council, is also under investigation. The two former ministers are among five RPR leaders being examined, although no date has been set to see the judge.

Last May, a former director of general administration for Paris stated that 200 fictitious At the time, Mr Juppe was positions were given to RPR deputy in charge of Finances for

HUNTER DAVIES

No one gives money to the poor. That would be silly. You might catch something, such as their poorness'

—THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4—

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Russia: Billionaire car dealer and media boss Berezovsky acted as the go-between for Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin

Kremlin Shake-up fixed in secret at Cannes

PHIL REEVES in Moscow

THE CHIEF mastermind of the firing of the Russian government, heralding the beginning of the end for Boris Yeltsin, has emerged as a 51-year-old tycoon who made his fortune as a car dealer.

Boris Berezovsky, the country's most prominent oligarch, is the principal broker in a deal that restored the sacked Viktor Chernomyrdin as Prime Minister and established himself as the power behind the throne.

Reports in Moscow say the billionaire businessman recently secretly met the new preer and a senior Kremlin Official - the deputy chief of staff, Igor Shabdurasalov - in the French resort of Cannes, thousands of miles from the economic maelstrom that was engulfing Russia, shaking the empires of its new oligarchs to their foundations.

The resulting proposal to replace the 36-year-old Sergei Kiriyenko, after only four months in office, was relayed to President Yeltsin by his younger daughter, Tatyana Dyachenko, and chief of staff, Valentin Yumashev, both friends of Mr Berezovsky.

The key question now taxing the minds of Russia's political



Boris Berezovsky (above) brokered a secret deal to restore Viktor Chernomyrdin as Prime Minister, but it makes little difference to Russians at a money exchange

undoubtedly wield in the new government.

Although, Mr Chernomyrdin's past record suggests he broadly favours market economics, he is also a former chief executive of the gas giant Gazprom, and tends to protect the interests of his chums in business and the energy sector.

It says much about the entwined nature of power and cronvism in Russia that Gazprom shares yesterday rocketed by 20 per cent.

The signs so far are ominous. Mr Chernomyrdin has told a newspaper that he wants to concentrate on "industrial polsupporters and creditors in the icy, since purely monetary mea-ing Russia's lamentable tax cess was yesterday acknowl-West is the nature of the influsures have not pulled Russia revenues and cutting the edged, bitterly, by Russki ence that Mr Berezovsky, and out of crisis". He has also been state's buge subsidies to enera coterie of other tycoons, will carefully courting the main gy and bousing - can be ex-

parliamentary groups (who pected to lose what little momentum they have.

have yet to confirm him in post) and has talked about creating a "broad-based government of accord", raising the possibility of a coalition government, including the Com-

To the ears of advocates of market reforms, such words are anathema, and spell a rise in government interventionism and spending. One of their camp, Anders Asland, a former adviser to Russia, has described Mr Cheroomyrdin's return as "a total disaster".

Certainly, tasks regarded as crucial by the International Monetary Find – such as rais-

This may well be one of the reasons why Mr Berezovsky has anointed Mr Chernomyrdin both as the premier and, it is safe to assume, the man whom he sees as beir to Mr Yeltsin's

Tsar-making is a role that he has long cultivated. In 1996. fearful of a Communist victory, be and six other magnates paid \$3m towards the Yeltsin reelection campaign. He was rewarded with a government job deputy secretary of the Security Council, from which he was later removed. But be tought his way back. His suc-

ident," said the headline. His rise owes much to ruth-

lessness, wheeler-dealing skills and opportunism boned in the lethal new world of Russian business. A former maths professor, he was shrewd enough to seize the money-making chances that arose in the lawless aftermath of Soviet collapse, parleying a car dealership into an empire that include oil, industrial and prop-

erty interests. By 1994, be was deeply enough immersed in the business world to become the target of an assassination attempt; a car bomb blew off the bead of his driver.

steadily upwards, becoming Svyazinvest became so serious

the most prominent member of a group of oligarchs who have long sought to cootrol the Kremlin from behind the

No one knows exactly how wealthy be is this own assessment, last year, of \$23,000 was greeted with mirth in Russia). but be has all the "new Russian" accoutrements: apartments abroad at least three properties in Russia and Cambridge educated children.

He has had occasional spats with the authorities - rows, for instance, with the government's so-called "young reformers", Anatoly Chubais and Boris Nemtsoy over the spoils . Undeterred (and protected of privatisation. One of these,

The PC D

that Mr Yeltsin personally had to intervene. But the tycoon assiduously mended his feoces.

ПОКУПКА ПР

For now, Mr Berezovsky, a small, balding man with a penchant for check jackets, is calling the shots in Russia. The clues were there, before the crisis began.

Like any player with serious ambitions to wield power in Russia, Mr Berezovsky bas sizeable media holdings, which he brazenly uses to his ends. These include a controlling stake in the national TV network ORT, and proprietorship of the newspaper Nezavisimaya Gazeta (the Indepen-

dent – no relation). On Friday, the newspaper all by a 150-strong security con- over the sale of the state but predicted Mr Cbertingent, many ex-KGB), he rose telecommunications giant nomyrdin's return to the top. It was oot a coincideoce.

Cabinet seats for old order

BY PHIL REEVES

RUSSIA WAS heading for a fundamental change in its political landscape last night after the Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, confirmed he is considering a coalition government in which the Communist Party – Boris Yeltsin's arch-enemies

 could have cabinet seats. It suggests that the weakened Mr Yeltsin is resigned to making sweeping concessions to secure parliament's speedy confirmation of the new Prime Minister in the face of a wors ening economic crisis.

Yesterday the rouble lost another 10 per cent against the dollar - its biggest drop in four years. Amid fears that a currency crash is only just beginning, queues formed outside banks for the second time in just over a week, as Russians sought to buy dollars and shopkeepers scrambled to mark up prices.

President Yeltsin - who awoke vesterday to a barrage of media speculation that his days are numbered - tried to limit the damage by anouncing during a photo-call that he feels "okay", Yesterday after-noon he had a 30-minute telephone conversation with the US President, Bill Clinton, who is due in Moscow for a two-day summit next Tuesday.

Officials said the discussion focused on their forthcoming meeting. It will also have covered the Russian President's unexpected decision to sack his four-month-old government; the acute banking crisis, and Moscow's plans to reschedule \$40bn (£25bn) of short-term rouble-denominated debt.

By bolding out the carrot of a coalition - or what he described as a "government of accord" - Mr Chernomyrdin may merely be making promises to lure parliamentary support that be later intends to break

But Russia's restless legislature, so long restrained by a 1993 constitution that overwhelmingly places power in the President's bands, now smells blood.

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What can we do, say Muscovites

IF RUSSIA was on the edge of a social and political abyss, you would not have known it from the apathy of most ordinary Muscovites yesterday.
"Nu. shto delat?" (well,

what can we do?) was a common response to news that Sergei Kiriyenko's cabinet bad been dismissed, accompanied by a weary Slavic shrug.

Some were more articulate than others in indifference that amounted either to gross civic irresponsibility or the height of spirituality. "What do you do when you are living on top of a volcano?" asked Valery a bearded maths teacher. "Maybe it will erupt in a hundred years' time. Maybe it will erupt tomorrow."

And that was what the residents of Samotechny Lane were doing - hurrying to the office, trading on the street, sweeping the gutters or sifting through the rubbish bins for edible scraps.

NICERIA IS to hold its promised Middential election on 27 Feb

ruary next year - climax of the

process fulfilling the pledge of

the country's military rulers to

return Africa's most populous

nation to full civilian rule by

Announcing the date yes-

terday, Ephraim Akpata, chair-

man of the Independent

National Electoral Commis-

sion, said elections to the new

parliament would take place a

week earlier, on 20 February,

while the governors and as-

semblies for Nigeria's 36 states

would be chosen by voters on

The staggering of the dates

is to ensure that not more than

two elections will be held on one

day. But the voting has also

been arranged to try to ensure that democracy is built from the

grass roots up, and that, as far

as possible in an ethnically

next May.

Nigerians set date

for presidential poll

"Excuse me." " 'Scuse me."



We both said it at the same

tion from him.

"Kiriyenko was set up," the young man said. "He tried to make the rich pay tax and devalued the rouble. Now (Viktor) Chernomyrdin returns and Kiriyenko gets the blame. If you ask me, it was a conspiracy from the start when Yeltsin sacked Chernomyrdin in the spring and brought Kiriyenko in to do the dirty work."

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

splintered country, parties have

where he is in the middle of a

three day visit, Nigeria's mili-

tary ruler, General Abdulsalam

Abubakar, renewed his promise

to hand over power. Nigerians

wanted "true democracy in a

country where fairness, jus-

tice and equity prevail," he told the South African parliament in

Under the plans a voters'

register will be opened on 5 Oc-

tober. Aspiring political par-

ties must first contest local

council elections, set for 5

10 per cent of the vote in at least

24 of the 36 states will be reg-

istered and permitted to run

candidates in the national vot-

ing in February.

Only those that win at least

Cape Town.

Speaking from South Africa

a genuinely national basis.



time. Kiril was trying to sell me Russian pop tapes out of a bag at the same moment I was trying to extract a political reac-



Did he feel sorry for the young Prime Minister of only

four months, then? "Nab, politicians are not worth pitying. Wanna buy a tape?

Viktor, a lawyer in his forties. also felt that Mr Kiriyenko had been made a scapegoat. "He did not have enough time to solve our problems. But neither did he have time to make the terrible mess we're . in now. If you're allotting blame, then I think you have to look further back in the past," he said, clearly referring to Mr

Chernomyrdin, whose first term as Prime Minister lasted from 1992 until this March.

For every person who sympathised with Mr Kiriyenko, there was one who preferred Mr Chernomyrdin.

"Kiriyenko was a bright lad but he was too lightweight to lead a great country like Russia," said Leonid, a scientist. "Russia isn't Singapore, after all. Chernomyrdin has much more experience. It's clear now Yeltsin sees him as his

successor" But even more common was the attitude that all politicians were the same and a change of government would hardly make a difference to the

impoverished masses. "Everything is very unsta-ble now," said Tamara, who supplements a pension worth \$80 a month by sitting under a canopy, selling yogurt.

"Things won't get better. We can only hope they don't get

HELEN WOMACK

IN BRIEF

Serb police kill charlty workers

SERB POLICE killed three ethnic Albanian workers for Mother Teresa's charity who were taking bumanitarian aid to refugees in the village of Malisevo in Kosovo, the Albanian daily Koho Ditore said. Two of the victims were identified as Adem Morina, 40, and Hajriz Morina, 24.

Groom dies at wedding dance

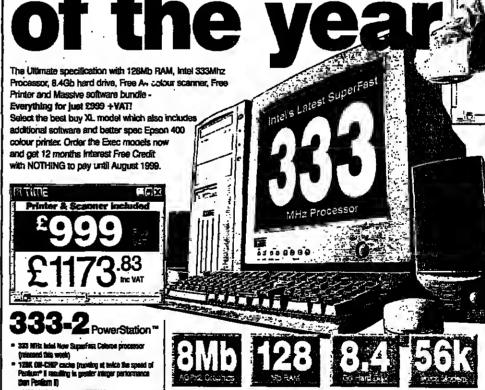
A GROOM had a fatal heart attack on his wedding night in New York while be and his bride were being carried around the room on raised chairs in a traditional Jewish way of celebrating marriage. Gregg Kaplan, 36, collapsed as guests raised him above the crowd.

Good prisoners get sex reward

BELGIAN PRISONERS who have served more than three months in jail may now win a new privilege - conjugal visits in a room complete with bed, linen and contraceptives, the Ministry of Justice said. The the pilot project for "intimate visits" was launched in July.

Hunger strikers ask to go home

CONDITIONS IN Italy's so-called "welcome centres" in Pozzallo, Sicily, bousing illegal immigrants, are so bad that a group of Somalis and Moroccans has pleaded to be repatriated. The illegals, who have been on hunger strike for two days, said they would prefer to be sent home rather than suffer any longer.



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Starr has 'mountain' of evidence for Clinton perjury



Clinton: Family 'healing'

THERE WERE new indications By Mary Dejevsky yesterday that the report of the independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, into the activities of President Bill Clinton could be every bit as damaging as the Clinton camp fears, and could make it hard for Congress to re-

sist an impeachment hearing. A lawyer close to the investigation was quoted as saying prosecutors had assembled "a mountain" of evidence that Mr Clinton had perjured himself over his now-admitted affair with Monica Lewinsky and obin Washington

cover it up. Forecasts about the contents of Mr Starr's report have veered in recent weeks, from first indications that it would be more comprehensive and damning than expected, to a report before Mr Clinton's admission of his affair with Ms Lewinsky that it would deal only with the Lewinsky case.

The logic that led the Attorney-General to add the Lewinsky case to the other Clinton structed justice in trying to investigations being conducted

transfer of FBI files to the White House (Filegate) and the sacking of the White House travel-office staff (Travelgate) - however, has always made the

more credible. It is speculated that Mr Starr has evidence to back up not only the contention that Mr Clinton lied under oath when he denied an affair with Ms Lewinsky but that efforts to keep the affair and other indiscretions - quiet entailed the silencing of others,

comprehensive version the

present his report as early as next month.

With the Clinton family keeping themselves to themselves behind the walls of their borrowed estate on Martha's Vinevard, the public is being spun tales of a troubled but "healing" family working out its differences. These are intended to rebuild Mr Clinton's image and present him as just another erring family man. Rather than living it up at a noisy party, the Clintons celebrated Bill's birth-

by Mr Starr - into the failed whether by inducements or day at dinner with friends. On ing" in Martha's Vineyard is not ratus and the Administration, Whitewater land deal, the threats. Mr Starr is expected to Sunday they kent themselves to replicated elsewhere. Polls as well as Congress, suggest. themselves, not even venturing out to church. On Monday Mr Clinton went to lunch with one set of friends; Mrs Clinton went on a boating trip with female

friends. The "healing-reconciliation-closure" language of of-ficials, referred to dismissively by some reporters outside the White House press corps as psychobabble, is paving the way for a reconciliation before the First Family returns to

Washington next weekend. The picture of gradual "heal-

from across the country show Mr Clinton's hitherto irrepressible job-approval rating has slipped a little, but, more significantly, his personal cred-

ibility rating is on a slide. One poll has it as low as 19 per cent, similar to Richard Nixon's at his nadir. The number of people expressing outright dislike for Mr Clinton has also risen. Still more worrying to the Clinton camp may be insistent "insider" reports from within the White House appa-

ing the extent of disaffection among Mr Clinton's immediate staff and supporters. As one of Washington's most influential commentators, Thomas Fried. man, wrote in The New York Times yesterday, the question may not be whether Mr Clindon "should" be president any more but whether he "can" be president. Unless Mr Clinton can repair the damage to his credibility, he said, "it is going to paralyse his ability to govern whatever Mr Starr does".

Castro fools ever-present death squads

WHEN FIDEL CASTRO arrived BY PHIL DAVISON in the Dominican Republic for a Caribbean summit last weekend he flew in, as always, on one of two identical Tupolev airliners. That way, anyone bying to blow him up would have only a 50-50 chance. Two Dominican fighter planes escorted the

He drove into Santo Domingo in one of three identical black limousines, for the same reason. A belicopter followed and a patrol boat steamed alongside the coastal road. As Mr Castro put it in a speech on Monday, he probably bolds the world record for assassination attempts against him. But be has survived to celebrate his 72nd birthday this month and looks likely to celebrate 40 years in power on New Year's Day, It used to be the CIA that tried to eliminate him, with everything from an exploding cigar to a spiked milkshake. More recently, be has been targeted by Miami-based Cuban exiles.

The Jaragua botel in Santo Domingo, where Mr Castro stayed, surrounded by 100 of his security men on one floor, reported receiving dozens of calls or faxes threatening to kill its most famous guest. Most appeared to come from Miami.

The Dominican Republic took the calls with a pinch of salt but there were other reports it took more seriously. Visitors of Cuban origin were screened before Mr Castro arrived. A Cuban-born man with a Spanisb passport was arrested after being found with a notebook containing details of Mr Castro's travel plans. Police said they did not have enough evidence to suggest he was plotLatin America Correspondent

ting to kill Mr Castro but that he would be deported.

This month The Miami Herald said a well-known Cuban exile, Luis Posada Carriles, was planning to kill Mr, Castro during his visit to the Dominican Republic. Mr Posada, 68, was accused of being behind the explosion of a Cuban airliner near Barbados in 1976 in which 73 people died. He spent



10 years in jail. He also led a team of Cuban exiles who planned to kill Mr Castro on a visit to Colombia four years ago, and tried to blow up a Cuban

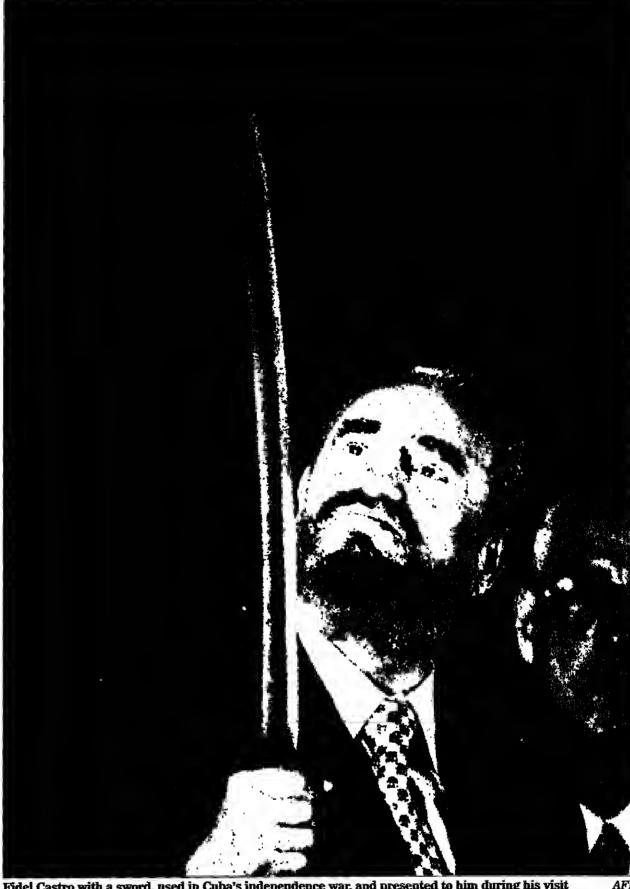
freighter in Honduras in 1993. Mr Posada said he had masterminded bombings around Havana last year aimed at scaring off tourists. He said be used Guatemalan tourists to nappies, shampoo bottles and shoes. Initially, Mr Posada told The New York Times, the most influential Cuban exile lobby group, the Miami-based Cuban American National Foundation

(CANF) had financed the Havana bombings. Later, however, he said be had deliberately 'disinformed" the newspaper to protect the identities of his

Two CANF leaders are expected to be indicted this week in connection with another alleged plot to kill Mr Castro. while the Cuban leader attended a summit on the Venezuelan island of Margarita last November. Before the summit, a US Coast Guard vessel stopped a cabin cruiser off Puerto Rico and found two sniper rifles, ammunition, uniforms and military equipment. One of the four Miami-based Cuban exiles on board said they were planning to kill Mr Castro on Margarita.

Investigations disclosed that one of the rifles belonged to Francisco "Pepe" Hernandez, the CANF president, and that the cruiser was registered to another CANF executive, José Antonio Llama. Their lawyers say they are likely to be indicted this week in Puerto Rico, that they acknowledge ownership of the rifle and boat but were not involved in any plot to kill Mr Castro.

As for the bearded leader himself, he proved be was very much alive in the speech on Monday to students in Santo Domingo that lasted almost as long as four football matches. Joking, to applause, about the assassination plots, be said: "Men die hut people are imsmuggle in plastic explosives in mortal. There are often reports that Castro's time is running out. But the fools and idiots don't realise that's not what's important. What value would the revolution have if it



depended only on a Castro?" Fidel Castro with a sword, used in Cuba's independence war, and presented to him during his visit

China's flood figures omit deaths

BY TERESA POOLE in Peking

IN CHINA there is a statistic for

just about anything.
Flood officials wheeled out yesterday by the government to update the world on this year's watery disaster announced that 130,000 "leading officials" in Hubei province were protecting the Yangtze dykes; 276,000 soldiers had belped resolve 5.762 "dangerous situations" in flood areas; and 22,728 medical teams had been dispatched into the disaster regions.

But how many people had actually died so far in the worst floods since 1954, and what was the estimated economic cost of the flooding?

"We are in the process of verification," said Zhou Wenzhi, vice-minister for water conservancy. China did not yet have a reliable figure for total deaths but "after this verification process we will truthfully release this figure to the world", said Mr Zhou.

Zhao Qizheng, a government spokesman, lashed out at "outrageous and absurd" estimates in the foreign media of the death toll, and jumped in to stop anyone drawing the wrong conclusion from this reticence The updated toll would "by no

ure of 2,100 killed, he said. For weeks China's domestic media have managed to give blanket coverage of the floods without mentioning how many

people are dying.

But Mr Zhou criticised foreign media reports, especially concerning the dyke collapse in Jiayu county, Hubei province, on 1 August. He lambasted one report of 3,000 casualties as

groundless". After "repeated investigations and verifications" the number of Jiayu dead was 44. he said. No one had been killed or injured in the major Yangize dyke breach at Jiujiang city in

early August, he insisted. As for direct economic losses, due to efforts being put into fighting the floods, Mr Zhou said the government "does not have enough time" to make the difficult analysis. That would come in the future.

Senior officials from the two provinces worst hit by flooding were less bashful. North-east Heilongjiang estimated losses due to the flood at 20 billion yuan (£1.54bn), and central Hubei gave a figure of 38.4 billion yuan (£12.8bn). One quarter of Heilongjiang's grain harvest had been wiped out, said the deputy governor, Ma Shujie.

The sensitivity of such figures means that the total human and economic cost of this year's floods will not be clear for some time. There are also several weeks left for the toll to increase, with Mr Zhou saying that a late typhoon sea-

TO THE PARTY OF

Locals' last stand for green spot with a mucky pond

IN THE secluded western suburbs of Washington, not a million miles from the CIA headquarters at Langley, it's not presidential sex that gets them going, but "sprawl". Urban sprawl is the newly appointed Public Enemy Number One, and nothing exemplifies the fight against it better than McLean's last stand for Evans

For a month, the local press has trumpeted the cause of the 24-acre tract on the edge of the upmarket Virginia suburb of McLean. What caused the rush of media concern was a report that Ralph Evans, whose family has owned the farm for half a century, was about to sell up. and out, to developers.

This rustic haven was about to be concreted over and absorbed into "the suburbs".

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AMERICAN TIMES

WASHINGTON

The people of McLean came forward as one to regale reporters with their fond recollections of Sunday visits to the farm, of feeding the ducks, of their delight in the only green space left for miles, of the baven that Evans Farm provided. Unable to afford a buyout themselves, they wanted the county to buy the farm, or to slap a conservation order on it-anything to save it for "our children and their children, and their children".

My sympathies were with them all the way. In the 20 years since I first visited the Washington area, suburban development has blighted swathes of Maryland and northern Virginia. Thousands of acres of farmland have been built on and over. The landscape between Fairfax, to the south-west of Washington, and Baltimore, to the north-east, which had been rolling agricultural land, dotted with trees and white and red clapboard barns, is no more.

Now, after a decade that has seen some of the most intensive development anywhere in the United States, it is the beneficiaries of the building who are starting to call "foul". Hooray, I thought. And it was in such a joyous frame of mind that I set off for Evans Farm. How wrong can you be.



Animals attract children to Evans Farm

green space, but is hardly holding the line against development. It is surrounded on every side by housing developments or roads.

Inside the farm fence, the whinneying of the horses is drowned out by the constant

roar of cars. The duckpond could do with a clean, but had nothing on the henhouses, whose general state of decay would not disgrace an old Eastern-bloc zoo. The arable fields are less farm than marketgarden, and neglected at that.

And, always, the whoosh of those cars ...

Evans Farm has a "farm" restaurant and a clutch of shops - a gallery, and a "doll shoppe" where the prices run to hundreds of dollars. There were a few visitors, mainly nannies pushing their charges in prams. A couple of children patted the bristly pigs and quacked back at the ducks but they hardly represented a quorum of locals.

Ralph Evans says the restaurant, which uses the farm produce, does not make enough money to offset his taxes, and he does not qualify for "working-farm" tax breaks. "It's like a public park", he said, "except that I pay all the bills."

Mr Evans says he has agreed the number of houses that will be built and landtimes and a "free" local attraction as it does in the landscape. In future, I will happily add my signature to petitions for the big wide spaces of Virginia and Maryland, but I cannot make a case for saving Evans Farm.

scaping that will preserve the inn and the pond. That will jack

up the prices of the finished

bouses nicely, so the develop-

ers cannot be too displeased.

dozers, when they come, will be

less the "fault" of Ralph Evans

than the logical consequence of

McLean's unrestrained growth.

And the "Save Evans Farm" re-

sistance movement that has

posted hand-painted signs on

the approach roads and packed

a local school hall with pro-

testers, has as much interest in

property values, commuting

But the fact is that the bull-

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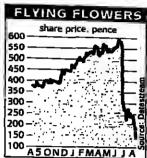
BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Ritblat raises stake in Selfridges

SHARES IN Selfridges, the department store retailer, edged higher yesterday as property group British Land increased its holding in the company. John Ritblat's group has acquired an additional 3.6 million shares taking its stake to 5.75 per cent. British Land first appeared on Selfridges' sharebolder register two weeks ago when it picked up a 3.1 per cent stake. Mr Ritblat has said he has acquired the holding for "investment purposes".

Flying Flowers' shares dive again



FLYING FLOWERS, the mail order florist, wilted further yesterday after the company confirmed that its profits would be substantially lower than last year.

The shares, which stood at 592.5p in June, lost a third of their value to close at 148p after the company said full-year profits would be "not less than £5m".

This compares to £6.25m last year. The group will cut the off-the-page advertising for its troubled Gardening Direct operation by a third from this year's figure of £3m. It will focus on its database of customers

Flying Flowers will give a detailed statement to shareholders with its interim results on 2 September. Nigel Smith has resigned as managing director of the company's DPA subsidiary.

Builders' merchant sold for £121m

BUILDING MATERIALS group RMC is to sell its beavyside builders' merchants division, Hall & Co, to Wolseley for £121m. The sale, expected to be tied up in September, completes RMC's strategic disposal of its non-core activities. RMC, which has its headquarters in Egham, Surrey, this month has sold Thorpe Park leisure complex, two cement plants and several other assets in

The latest deal allows RMC to focus itself as a supplier of heavy building materials to the international construction industry.

The proceeds of the disposal will be used to reduce RMC's debts and help provide flexibility for the development of the group.

Hall & Co operates from 92 branches in the UK and reported a turnover of £180m last year.

STOCK MARKETS

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5500	8700	15000
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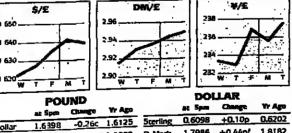
		MAL				
İncles	Close	Change	Charge (%	57 with bilght !	52 mk low Y1	
FTSE 100	5654.40	100.70	1,81	6183.70	4382.80	3.51
FTSE 250	5100.30	44.30	0.88	5970.90	4428,30	3.95
FTSE 350	2704.00	43.80	1.65	2969.10	2141.80	3.59
FTSE All Share	2624.13	39.9	1,55	2886.52	2106,59	3,59
FTSE SmallCap	2285.80	-3.50	-0.15	2793,80	2231.60	3.62
FTSE Fledgling	1270.00	-1.20	-0.09	1517.10	1225.20	4.05
FTSE AM	977.50	-0.60	-0.06	1146.90	965.90	1,37
FTSE EBLOC 100	992.61	23.28	2.40		-	
Dow Jones	8654.19	98.61	1.15	_9367.84	6971.32	1.71
Nikkel	15072.93	84.57	0.56	18866.79	14488,21	1.01
Hang Seng	7890.09	44.61	0.57	15704.08	6544.79	5.19
Daox	5371.76	136.88	2.62	6217.83	3487.24	2.99

INTEREST RATES

SHORT STERLING	UK 10 YEAR GILT	US LONG BOND
772	5.70	5.55
7.70	5.60	5.50
7.59	3.50	5.45
	16 A 18 A	
7.66 W T F M T	WIFMI	WTFMI
		at Sper

MONEY MARKET RATES					BOND YIELDS				
ndest	3 month	Yr chg	1 Year	Yr chg	10 year	Yr chg	Long bond	Yr chg	
Ж	7.75	0.44	7.63			-1.62	5.18	-1.82	
ıs	5.69	-0.03	5.69	-0.34	5.27	-1.12	5.47	-1.20	
apan	0.00	0.07	0.00	-0.02	1.41	-0.86	1.94	-0.87	
арын		0.30	3.66	0.01	4.16	-1.55	5,01	-1.38	

CURRENCIES



105.60 +0.20 101.70 \$ index 115.40 +0.30 105.50 OTHER INDICATORS

D-Mark 2.9497 +0.26pf 2.9058 D-Mark 1.7986 +0.44pf 1.8182

237.68 +¥1.49 190.80 Yen 144.94 +¥1.12 118.76

		Chg	Yr Ago		Indes	Org	Yr aga	Next I
	Close			CDB	175.40	2.60	112.48	Sep
Brent Oil	(5) 12.40	0.03	18.34	SUF.	162.00	3 50	157 49	Au
Gold (5)	28 <u>2.95</u>	1.60	325.90	KFI	103,44			
Silver (S)		-0 09	4,65	Base	IATEL			°at 5
-man. 141			4-8-		COLUR	CF B	LOON	IBER

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1	The second second			
1		2240	Mexican (nuevo peso)	13.9
	Australia (5)	2.7249	Netherlands (guilders)	3.217
1	Austria (schillings)	20.05	New Zealand (S)	3.187
1	Belgium (francs)	30.34	New Zealand (o)	12.4
		2.4668	Norway (krone)	289.8
	Canada (5)	0.8350	Portugal (escudos)	5.965
ļ	Cyprus (pounds)	10.93	Saudi Arabia (rials)	_
ļ	Denmark (krone)	8.7340	5Ingapore (5)	2.736
Ì	Finland (markka)	9.5769	Spain (pesetas)	241.8
ı	France (francs)		South Africa (rands)	9.852
	Germany (marks)	2.8648	5weden (krone)	1 <u>3.1</u>
	Greece (drachma)	486.21	Switzerland (francs)	2,397
1	Hong Kong (5)	12.29	Thaliand (bahts)	61.2
1	Ireland (punts)	1.1347	Turkey (lirasi)	43755
1	Indian (rupees)	63.91		1.598
ł	MORAN (POSCOS)	5.6168	USA (5)	
ı	Israel (shekels)	2829	Rates for indication purpo	ses onh
1	italy (lita)	231.53	Rates for multiplicate parps	
1	Japan (yen)	66130	Cook	•
1	Malaysio (ringgits)	0.6241	Source. Thomas Cook	
-	AAsks (Bra)	4.4		

pills to fend off predators

bank Goldman Sachs is to adopt a slew of tough poison pill defences against potential predators when it comes to the market in its \$30bn float in November

According to the S1 registration document filed with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on Monday, the partners and management board have put in place provisions to enable them to block any change in control without reference to outside shareholders.

The board will be split into three classes of members, with one class being elected each year for three-year terms. As a result, at least two annual

WALL STREET investment By ANDREW GARFIELD Financial Editor

> be required to change a majority of directors.

The shareholders of the company can only remove directors with a 66.6 per cent majority. Any change in Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation - the US equivalent of a company's articles of association - will require an 85 per cent majority. Changes in bylaws will also require a majority not just of the shares present at the meeting but the total shares in issue.

If that fails, the board also has a "blank cheque" provision enabling them to issue unlimited amounts of preferred stock to meetings of shareholders will friendly shareholders in order to

frustrate any hostile move. The belt-and-braces anti-

Goldman lines up poison

takeover provisions were put in to placate opponents of the float, such as John Thornton, a senior partner, who feared that listing the company would mean that the partners who have been the driving force behind Goldman would ulfimately lose control of the firm.

"It was the big issue at the time when we were debating going public," one insider said "It is a clear objective to avoid losing control of the firm." Initially only 10 to 15 per cent

of the company is expected to be sold, but once the shares are listed and the lock-in provisions expire there will be little to stop Goldman employees who retire or leave from selling.

GOLDMAN SACHS: TOP OF THE MARKET Mergers and Acquisitions

		SHARE, %	Şbn	TRANSACTIONS
Worldwide .	1	23.8	1.405	1,334
Worldwide				
transactions over \$16n	1	36.5	1,172	259
United States	1	30 7	1,098	932
Share offers			PROCEEDS Sbn	NUMBER OF
Worldwide IPO's	1	15.2	47	320
Worldwide				
common stock offerings	1	14.1	103	698
U.S. iPO's	1	15.1	. 36	1,99

which advised on merger and acquisition deals worth nearly \$1,400bn in the last five years about a quarter of all deals worldwide - taking such steps.

There is an irony in a firm either in agreed deals or for the defence in contested bids.

The Goldman co-chairmen and chief executives, Jon Corzine and Henry Paulson, say the float will enable the firm to To be fair, Goldman tends to act spread its ownership more

widely through the firm and be-

yond its 198 partners Goldman has two outside shareholders, the Sumitomo Trust of Japan and an obscure Hawaiian trust, Kamehameha Activities Association, which together own 20 per cent of the firm. They have been substantial shareholders since 1994

when Goldman needed capital. Evebrows were raised vesterday by the large proportion of Goldman's revenues which. according to the document. come from own-account trading. The document disclosed that return on partners' capital in the first half of the year was a staggering 65 per cent pre-tax, but that will almost certainly fall when the firm floats and the valuation of the capital rises.

Blue

BAT

Cross to

oppose

merger

BY ANDREW GARFIELD

US HEALTHCARE insurance group Blue Cross and Blue

Shield, one of the groups fighting through the courts for compensation for smokers, bas written to BAT Industries warning that it will oppose the £35bn merger of the group's fi-

nancial services operations with Zurich Insurance of

Blue Cross, which is purstiing BAT Industries' US cigarette producer, Brown & Williamson, for damages, told BAT's solicitors Herbert Smith

it is sending representatives to oppose the deal when it comes

up for approval in the High Court next Wednesday. The sanction of the Court is needed before BAT can go ahead with plans to split off its

financial services arm and

merge it with the Swiss insurer.

one of the leading US healthcare

groups, fears the deal will com-

plicate its attempts to secure

compensation for policyholders

suffering from smoking-related

diseases. Fears of a large hit

from the projected US legal

wrangle over tobacco liabilities

has been a significant drag on

BAT said yesterday it had

been advised that the chances

of the efforts to derail the deal

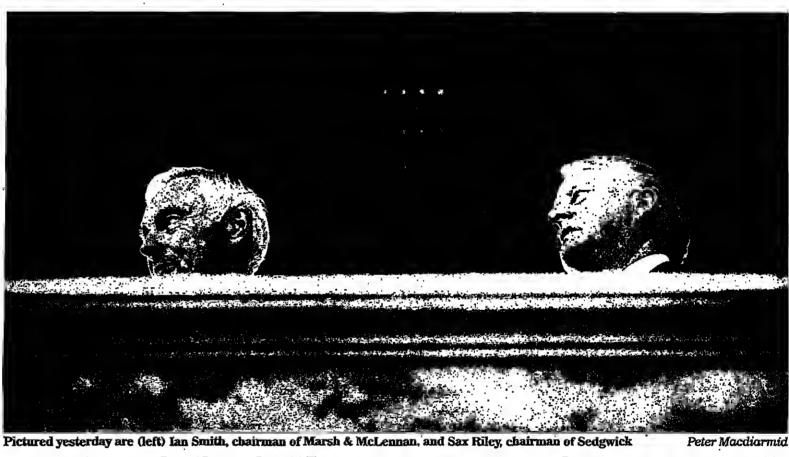
succeeding were slim. BAT's

solicitors have told the company

Blue Cross and Blue Shield,

Financial Editor

Switzerland.



Sedgwick falls to American rival

SHARES IN the insurance sector raced ahead on bid talk late yesterday as the last of Britain's hig insurance brokers fell to an American rival with the announcement that Sedgwick Group has agreed a takeover by Marsh & McLennan in a deal worth £1.25bn.

There was immediate speculation that the huge takeover deal would be quickly followed by a significant corporate move by Royal & Sun Alliance, which hanking sources say is seeking a £1.5 billion loan to use either for a share buyback or an

THE RUSSIAN rouble was

threatening to go into free fall

yesterday as the failure of the

new government to deliver on

its promise to unveil terms of

a key \$40bn debt restructuring

deal further undermined the

country's financial credibility.

As deadline after deadline

passed for the announcement

of the terms, the rouble

crashed 10 per cent against the

dollar to 7.88. Dealings on Rus-

sia's foreign exchange mar-

kets had to be suspended at one

stage under local circuit-break-

BY ANDREW VERITY

were up by 27p to 558p on the speculation. CGU were up by 25p at 1,010p, and GRE up 12p at 290p. Marsh & McLennan, the

American insurance broking giant, is offering cash of 225p per Sedgwick share, a 58 per cent premium on the closing price on Monday. Marsh & McLennan has already received undertakings for 41 per cent of Sedgwick's share capital.

The deal follows just a month after Sedgwick's main British rival Willis Corroon, sold out to a consortium of five insurers Royal & Sun Alliance shares and Kohlberg Kravis Roberts,

By Andrew Garfield

There was huge disappoint-

ment among Western investors

that the absence of news had

come despite a statement from

the office of the new Prime Min-

ister Viktor Chernomyrdin, late

on Monday night stating that he had approved a deal to swap

short-term government GKÔ

and OFZ bills for longer-dated

Western bankers were in-

sisting that the deal had to en-

sure that they were not

NEW YORK

the New York investment wick, yesterday insisted the

The buyout will mean no insurance broker of global reach will remain in British hands. One leading industry figure

said: "I think this is enormously sad. Having invented insurance 350 years ago, having seen so much innovation, nous and skills among insurance brokers, it's very regrettable that decisions will now be taken in New York or Dallas or Chicago.

We have become the victims of a lack of global vision and the industry will be worse off as a

Sax Riley, chairman of Sedg-

source said that the Russians

were planning to offer investors

a choice between high-yielding

rouble paper and lower-yielding

Traders said local banks

were taking advantage of the

attempts by the central bank to

pump in liquidity to dump the currency wholesale in favour of

dollars. "It is getting more

crazy. It is getting out of con-

trol," said David Riley at Fitch

IBCA, the debt rating agency.

"The idea was to have an or-

derly devaluation. But this is

deal would benefit global

clients, who now have the choice of just three global brokers. He said: "Historically you could say it is a sad day. I could ask the same question of the investment banking world. We set our stall out as a global player and to go forward we needed a partner."

Sedgwick sought the deal after years of trying to forge an alliance with Willis Corroon - an offer rebuffed by John Reeve. head of Willis Corroon.

In the midst of the crisis,

three of Russia's largest banks

- Menatep, Uneximbank and

Most Bank - yesterday un-

Further consolidation is ex-

pected as banks, many of which

have been very badly hit by the

devaluation, scramble to avoid

collapsing under the huge debt

Estimates suggested that

the amount owed by Russian

private sector banks to foreign

counterparties could be as high

as \$38bn, if off-balance sheet

burden they are carrying.

veiled a merger deal.

Marsh & McLennan, the

already owns some of the \$150m.

Johnson Higgins, 18 months ago. Its nearest rival, Aon, bought its US rival Alexander and Alexander in mid-1997. Its UK operations, Alexander Clay and Godwins, merged towards the end of last year. The companies confirmed

there would be substantial job losses where roles overlapped. but sought to reassure staff they were secure.

biggest brokers operating the

UK-such as William M. Mercer.

It took over a big US rival,

It is estimated around 1,000

jobs are likely to go, saving biggest broker in the world. Marsh & McLennan about

Russia's central bank chief,

Sergei Dubinin, seemed in-

creasingly caught between his

desire to maintain monetary

discipline and his fear that un-

less further liquidity was

that under English law the deal could only be stopped by a creditor and as Blue Cross has yet to win any litigation against Russian debt crisis threatens rouble Brown & Williamson it is not technically a creditor at present. BAT Industries is injecting its financial services opera-

BAT's shares.

tions, which include Eagle Star and Allied Dunbar in the UK and Farmers in the US, into Zuricb Financial Services, which will be 57 per cent owned by BAT shareholders. BAT and Zurich yesterday

said that dealings in BAT Inpumped into the system, some dustries and Zurich Insurance of the larger banks would go to would be suspended on the the wall and bring down what close of trade next Thursday. is left of Russia's shaky finacial Shares in Allied Zurich, the Ordinary Russians were yes-UK-quoted vehicle for the fiterday out on the streets trying nancial services group, and to buy gold in a further sign of British American Tobacco. their dwindling confidence in BAT's tobacco arm, would start their home currency and the in London the following

discriminated against. One nothing of the sort." deals are taken into account.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

er provisions.

SHARES continued to recover, encouraged by firmer Far Eastern markets and a bright showing by New York. Footsie jumped 100.7 points to 5,654.4, and the mid cap index rallied 44.3 to 5,100.3, but the small cap was again in negative territory, falling 3.5 to 2,285.8.

Rolls-Royce led the advance, rising 20.75p to 236p on its share of the BA Airbus order. Financial shares were strong on takeover hopes with the US bid Sedgwick fanning the speculative flames.

Derek Pain, page 19

AMERICAN stocks railied sharply as calm in Asian and European markets sent the Dow jumping nearly 100 points at midday, with financial stocks continuing to rebound off their recent battering. The Philadelphia Stock Exchange's bank index was up more than 15 points or 2 per cent

Hildegard Zagorski, a Prudential Securities analyst said the rally came after a pretty good beating." The Dow Jones surged 98 points to 8,556 at midday.

TOKYO

THE NIKKEI 225 posted a modest 0.6 per cent rise to 15,072.9 after an overnight gain in the yen and strength in New York. But dealers said trading was marked by a lack of activity that exaggerated price

Selling of bank stocks was aggravated after the Prime Minister, Keizo Obuchi, said it would not be appropriate to reveal the results of individual banks' inspections. That, traders said, would increase distrust in the sector by limiting transparency.

FRANKFURT

GERMAN banks led a rally in European bourses, which were given a further boost by Wall Street climbing 1.3 per cent by the time European trading ended. Signs that the Russian-inspired market meltdown fears were fading were evident in Frankfurt where the big banks -Dresdner, Commerzbank and Deutsche - led the Xetra DAX computer trade index up 2.92 per cent. All three banks have suffered steep declines because of their exposure to Russia.

MADRID

SPAIN'S Ibex index of the 35 most traded stocks gained 2 per cent to close at 9,453.3, driven largely by speculative buying in bank stocks.

Shares in Spanish banks have suffered beavy losses in the past three days because of concerns about the value of their Latin American holdings after falls in Latin American stock markets. The region may yet suffer more fall-out from the Asian and Russian troubles: the Venezuelan and Brazilian currencies are seen as particularly vulnerable.

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THE INDEPENDENT Wednesday 26 August 1998

How to overpay in a takeover bid

NOT MANY contested or competing takeover bids are made these days. According to the Takeover Panel they have fallen to just one in five of total merger activity. In the US it's even more pronounced; 1980s style contested bids are virtually un-

The reasons for this are well rehearsed. In a contested or competing takeover the successful bidder nearly always ends up overpaying. The chances of that happening today are greater than ever, since companies are generally more efficiently run than they were m the 1980s heyday of the contested bid, and as a consequence there's not much fat left to pay for the premium. If there's to be a recession, or the world is heading for a big economic slowdown, then the consequences of overpaying could be quite serious.

So hardly anyone'a doing them. Instead, the fashion is for no premium, consolidating mergers. Despite the now infamous clash of egos that caused the Glaxo/SmithKline merger to come apart at the seams. an awful lot of them are reaching

All of which makes the battle for control of Dennis, an unglamorous



OUTLOOK

Conventry based manufacturer of bus and fire engine chassis, an intriguing little affair. For the laconic John Simpson, chief executive of Mayflower Dennis marks a second attempt in less than a year at the big deal - his first, a mooted bid for Vickers, stumbling before the might of VW and BMW.

This time he made it off the starting hlocks only to be outbid by Henlys, which among other things makes coach bodies. On the face of it, the Henlys bid seems to make more sense commercially, since by putting its bodies together with Dennis's chassis, it can offer the whole charabanc, as it were. Whether this justifies the heady

matter. Certainly there's sufficient doubt in the City to send Henlys shares into a spin, undermining the value of its cash and stock offer for Dennis in the process. Without the assistance of a share support operation from Volvo, which is buying up to 10 per cent of Henlys in the market, prospects for the bid might look bleak.

Volvo's interest is a suspect one. It would not be allowed to buy Dennis directly, since the two combined would have the bulk of the UK chassis market. So it seems to have opted for the strategy of backing one of the bidders instead. The emergence of a share support operation, albeit a legal and disclosed one, makes it all seem quite like the 1980s again. Even if be could afford it, Mr Simpson would be an idiot to raise his bid. The waters are muddy enough, and Henlys is already overpaying.

Now Americans take Sedgwick

BRITISH INSURANCE broking may not make us wave our union jacks very much, but this was one those

price it is now bidding is another industries which the UK could boast was both global and made in the UK. Now the last two independent players of size in the City are following our merchant banks into foreign ownership.

The way things are going, it can only be a matter of time before the clearing banks follow suit. Sedgwick and Willis Corroon, both UKlisted companies, were third and fourth in the global market. You might have thought that would be enough to sustain them as independents, but oh no. If other industries are consolidating, insurance brokers must too.

There's quite a history to this end game. As the insurance market has sagged over the last few years, Sedgwick's chairman, Sax Riley, has been seeking a tieup with Willis Corroon to create a giant British broker capable of standing on its own. Unfortunately, his opposite number John Reeve, refused to play ball. He was just determined to run his own show. Eventually he persuaded Kohlberg Kravis Roberts to huy him out

Why should a client - or for that BOOKER, THE gently wasting matter a colleague or a customer care about a broker's nationali-

tag a company to the location of its headquarters. Sedgwick's husiness mostly involves consulting. selling and hroking commercial insurance for multi-national clients; it is a global business and

ownership doesn't matter.

Fair enough, but that's not what Sedgwick used to say. Up until quite recently it consistently argued that the interests of customers were best served by having more brokers, not less. Right now there are only four global brokers of any size left: Marsh McLennan, its US rival Aon, Sedgwick and the now American-owned Willis Corroon. Big commercial customers already have precious little chance to reject a broker on grounds of price or service. With three companies rather than four, the situation is unlikely to improve.

Booker should not rush in

away cash & carry husiness, has probably never felt so wanted.

ty? Ian Smith, chairman of Marsh After years of criticism as the McLennan, says it is out of date to company ricocheted from one disaster to another, it suddenly finds itself the subject of a three-way tug of love.

First Somerfield sidles up and proposes a merger. Then Budgens starts whispering sweet nothings, though it is to shy formally to declare its intentions. And of course there are the inevitable financial buyers waiting in the wings.

Booker may wonder why every-one suddenly wants to come a-courting. Somerfield wants to steamroller the deal through as quickly as possible. Somerfield's David Simons wants to fold Booker's buying power into his own as quickly as possible, so as to gain the benefit and keep up the momentum be's already established with the Kwik Save takeover. Unfortunately, it is offering only a no-premium merger similar to the Kwik Save transaction.

The Budgens approach may he even less promising, though we have not yet heard the terms. With less than £400m of sales, the benefits of joint buying would be less imve. The main asset it would bring to the party would be its manment team. John von Spreck-

KE OWITH AIRBUS ORDER FOR US SINGLE AISLE A319, A320

at Budgens, but a reverse takeover would seem a rather elaborate and costly way for Booker to secure his services.

The problem for shareholders in Booker and its would-be predators is that these approaches are likely to be all-share deals at little or no premium. So they are a gamhle on management's ability to make the deal work. Booker is under intense pressure to walk down the aisle with someone, even if neither prospective groom is entirely appropriate. It has no chief executive and its corner shop customers are going out of business like there's no tomorrow.

Even so, the Booker board should be careful not to sell itself short. Its supplier base is a valuable asset and its distribution chain is just about to start throwing off cash after years of investment. That might make an attractive proposition for a financial huyer in a position to pay a premium and in cash. In this market, that would be preferable to almost any hidder's paper. So while it is nice to be popular, Booker should not be surrendering to the first gentleman caller who drops by:

IN BRIEF

L&M chief to net £846.000 on bid

LONDON & MANCHESTER'S group chief executive, Tom Pyne, is to net some £846,000 from the sale of shares and options in the wake of last week's £750m agreed takeover of the insurance company by Friends Provident, the mutual.

The other boardroom bid beneficiary is David Newman, whose holding will be worth £571,470. Former transport secretary John MacGregor's 1,048 shares are worth £6,288. Among other staff, 66 participating in the employee scheme share a profit of around £400,000. Friends' 600p a share offer represents an 18 per cent premium to the price the day before the offer was announced.

UBS profits

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SHARES IN UBS, parent of Warburg Dillon Read, the investment bank, shrugged off a 554m Swiss franc (£231m) hit from the Holocaust settlement to soar 4 per cent in Zurich yesterday after reporting a better-than-expected first half, thanks to buoyant equity markets world-wide.

Investment banking profits were Sfr1.128bn (£471m), 81 per cent of the 1997 total. The group operating profit before tax was Sfr4.6bn, up 26 per cent. UBS, which last week cut a third of its Moscow staff, said it had lost Sfr200m in the latest Russian débacle.

AMP hostile bid

AUSTRALIA'S biggest life insurance and funds management group AMP yesterday launched a hostile A\$3.01bn bid for general insurer GIO Australia Holdings. AMP's bid, if successful, would be the Australian share market's higgest takeover and would strengthen AMP in the general insurance sectors in Australia and New Zealand.

AEEU pension

THE AMALGAMATED Engineering and Electrical Union yesterday launched a new pension scheme aimed at workers without access to occupational pensions, saying the "stakeholder" pension, set up in conjunction with Friends Provident, would make a "real difference" to the lives of working people. The new scheme will have low charges and workers will be able to take their pension with them if they move jobs.

Australian gain

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AUSTRALIAN regional newspaper and radio group APN News and Media saw pre-tax profits rise from A\$21.2m to A\$24.0m in the six months to 30 June 1998. The group, which is 49 per cent owned by Tony O'Reilly, the owner of The Independent, said the results were achieved under challenging trading conditions.

Vodafone buy

VODAFONE, the UK's higgest mobile telephone company, is buying New Zealand's national GSM network, operated by BellSouth New Zealand, and related assets for about NZ\$750m.

News Analysis: The £5.5bn Airbus deal might seem to be a political fix, but it will create jobs in Europe

BA builds bridges with Brussels

BY TERRY MACALISTER

THE DECISION by British Airways to break its commitment to Boeing and place its first-ever contract with Airbus Industrie has left sceplics wondering whether there was a political fix.

BA chief executive Boh Ayling strongly rejected this last night. He said: "The only thing that concerned us was getting the cheapest aircraft we could. If yon buy for political reasons, you go bust."

The appearance of Tony Blair, Prime Minister, at the signing ceremony in Toulouse only fuelled this speculation yesterday. The official line was that Mr Blair happened to be on holiday in France and just wanted to join in the celebration.

However, the airline and acrospace sectors are intensely political. In December Mr Blair oined Chancellor Kohl in calling for European aerospace co-operation and consolidation ahead of a wider deal on the defence sector.

The £5.5 billion contract for 188 airliners from Airbus by BA helps provide the European aircraft manufacturer with a good platform for proposed restructuring. BA also needs to rebuild

some bridges in Brussels. The European transport commission has criticised BA for the Airbus on the day certainly dismissive way it supposedly treated regulators over its proposed alliance with American Airlines. The EC has given the formal go-ahead to the tie-up, hut attached tough conditions which Mr Ayling says are too

The BA boss denied yesterday he was currying favour with the EC by placing the order with Airbus. "Life is not that simple," he insisted.

But the Airbus contract helping to secure the future of 130,000 jobs at Airbus and its suppliers around Europe should certainly help BA relations with the Commission.

One leading industry analyst said: "I am sure there was an element of politics in this. The



HOW AIRBUS AND BOEING SHAPE UP

	Airbus	Boeing
Total aircraft ordered	2971	13969
delivered	1971	12176
backlog	1200	1.793
Employees	130,000	238,000
(inc. suppliers)	Source	e: Aurbus and Boeine

British Aerospace workers at Filton, Bristol, (above) cheering the news that British Airways is to buy Airbus. BAe stands to gain £1.1bn in business, and Rolls Royce a further £500m for the engines. The deal was signed yesterday in Toulouse by Noel Forgeard of Airbus Industrie (top left) and Bob Ayling (top right) of BA

fact that Tony Blair was at the jobs of 38,000 staff who used for intra-UK and Eurowork for British Aerospace. Rolis Royce, and 300 smaller suggests this." The coincidence that the suppliers in the UK. Airbus contract was announced British Aerospace not only alongside a smaller deal for 16

Boeing 777 aircraft (with options on a further 16) also seemed to indicate a political eye was being kept on the US. Up until now, Boeing has enjoyed a stranglehold on BA new orders. The decision to

announce a smaller contract with the Seattle-based aircraft manufacturer looked like a face-saving device to many industry experts. The US is one of BA's vital markets. Closer to home, Mr Ayling is

said to enjoy good relations with the new Trade Secretary Peter Mandelson, Moreover, the Airbus contract will secure

holds a 20 per cent stake in Airbus itself, but also stands to gain as much as £1.1bn in business via BA because it builds all the Airbus wings.

The BA contract with Airbus could create over £500m worth of work for Rolls Royce.

The fact that the deal was won on the tightest of margins by Airbus in competition with Boeing was underlined by Mr Ayling. "We have ordered the right aircraft at the right time at the right price. This is a great investment in our future, made possible by the commercial

The first 21 aircraft will be

pean operations by BA reduce our capital expenditure Regional, which employs 1,000 staff based in Manchester. Birmingham and Scotland. The rest of the aircraft will be fly out of Gatwick, or operated by the French and German sub-

Deutsche BA. New aircraft will replace older equipment and provide capacity for increased passenger volumes. The airline needs the new A319 and A320 aircraft to increase efficiency and cope with tougher EU environmental regulations.

sidiaries, Air Liberte and

The new aircraft are up to six times quieter than existing airliners. They are also smaller and more fuel efficient, helping BA to compete against low-cost competitors like EasyJet.

Mr Ayling said: "We need to plus options for 129 others will loss in 50 years. Last month it at a time when we need also to increase our schedules in a deregulated market." For Airbus the contract from

BA underlines the enormous progress it has made since it first opened for husiness 25 years ago. In 1994 Airbus won more orders than Boeing for the first time.

Airbus has already won more contracts in the first half of this year after finishing 1997 with 45 per cent of the market to Boeing's 53 per cent. The remainder went to McDonnell Douglas, now part of Boeing.

Although BA owns 10 Airbus A320s, they were bought by British Caledonian before it was taken over by BA. The at a critical time for Boeing, latest deal for 59 firm orders having run up its first annual

Cortecs set to launch quick

build confidence at a vital time when Noel Forgeard, Airbus Industrie's chief executive wants to move to a traditional company structure and ultimately bring Airbus to the

stock market.

based Airbus is termed a Groupement d'Interet Economique which publishes no accounts and makes no profits or losses in its own right. These accrue to its owners - Aerospatiale of France and Daimler-Benz Aerospace (Dasa) of Germany, which each own 37.9 per cent, and BAe (20 per cent) as well

At present the Toulouse-

as Casa of Spain (4.2 per cent). The BA contract also comes lost a lucrative contract on its home ground when US Airways placed a firm contract for seven wide-bodied A330 aircraft, took out options on a further seven and reserved delivery positions on 16 more.

A Boeing spokeswoman said last night that the company was "disappointed", hut she brushed aside suggestions that the Airbus contract was a huge psychological blow.

"Market leadership is ultimately decided by long-term success. We will work hard to be lean and efficient to win the next contracts," she said.

The next test for Boeing will come later this year when Scandinavian Airline Services decides whether to choose Air-

Goldstein to head **British Biotech**

BRITISH BIOTECH, the drug By Francesco Guerrera company which has been rocked by allegations of malpractice, yesterday took another step towards rebuilding investor confidence with the appointment of a senior manager from SmithKline Beecham as its new chief executive.

Dr Elliot Goldstein, 47, a senior vice-president with the pharmaceutical giant, will replace the outgoing chief executive, Dr Keith McCullagh, at the end of September.

Dr Goldstein, who also worked for Sandoz of France, will receive a total pay package of £500,000, including a £175,000 "golden hello". He will be given 500,000 shares in the company which can be exercised in two

His arrival will coincide with the departure of Dr Pam Kirby, British Biotech's commercial director, believed to have been an internal candidate for the post. A spokeswoman for the company said yesterday that Dr Kirby's "contractual obligations will be met". Last year, Dr Kirby received a salary of £146,000 for the eight months she worked since joining the company.

City analysts said Dr Goldstein's first task would be to restore investor confidence in the company. Shares in British Biotech have lost more than 80 per cent of their value as the company was embroiled in a bitter feud with Dr Andrew Millar, its former head of clini-



package plus options

cal research. He was sacked in April after accusing the board of issuing overoptimistic statements over two of the company's drugs, the pancreatitis treatment Zacutex and the cancer compound Marimastat. The drugs are still awaiting regulatory approval. Yesterday the stock closed 0.5p down at 36.5p.

test for crippling bone disease MILLIONS OF women at risk of By Francesco Guerrera

contracting osteoporosis will be able to receive a five-minute affect around 3 million women test in their GP surgeries for in Britain. Men are much less the first time since the crippling prone to the condition. Recent syndrome was discovered. thanks to a device to be launched later this year by Cortecs Diagnostics, a Deeside-based biotechnology com-

Medical experts believe that the new kit. known as Osteosal. will enable GPs to screen a large number of women quickly and cost-effectively. It could save the National Health Service hundreds of millions of pounds by reducing the need for hospital visits from women suffering from the condition. The disease is estimated to

research showed that around one in three women over 50 is is able to produce a result in at risk of developing osteoporosis, which can be particularly painful as It eats away at

the bones' texture, doctors say. Cortecs shares are trading at a low of 46p after hitting a peak of 195.5p earlier this year. The company, which floated in London in 1994, has been rocked by a boardroom battle which led to the departure of its chairman, Glen Travers. He is suing Cortecs for £1.5m compensation. Osteosal is similar to easy-

to-use pregnancy tests. It in-

sample into a hand-held device £100, will offer doctors valuable which is then put into a desktop reader. The kit measures the level of a biomarker which regulates bone breakdown and around five minutes.

Cortecs says that at first the effectiveness of osteoporosis treatments such as hormone replacement therapy by measuring whether the drug is slowing the breakdown in bones.

"It will tell both doctor and patient whether the drug is effective and whether the patient is taking the drug," said John Curtis, managing director of Cortecs Diagnostics.

Mr Curtis said the test, which

volves inserting a small urine will be sold to GPs for around information on ways to treat the disease. At present, women need X-ray scans known as Dual Energy X-Ray Absorptiometry (DXA) to diagnose osteoporosis. The high cost of these machines - round £20,000 test will be used to monitor the each - has forced many health authorities to ration tests.

> reimbursement of the kit's costs to lighten the load on GPs' funds. He added that the company is carrying out tests on the use of the kit to predict onset of the disease. If these are successful. Osteosal could he used on

Mr Curtis said Cortecs was

talking to the authorities about

young women to assess the risk of contracting the condition.

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Rolls hitches a ride on flying Footsie

group battered and bruised by the Asian crisis and the strong pound. climbed 20.75p to 236p following British Airways' decision to fly Air-

As the stock market continued to recover from Red Friday, Rolls drew encouragement from the \$830m (£510m) it will gain if BA takes up all its Airbus order and from the possibility that it will also be involved in the Boeing remnant

Rolls, with interim results due tomorrow, is the subject of a fierce analytical debate. Some believe the group is allowing its profit margins to be squeezed too tightly, relying on the expectation that it will capture the renewal and servicing contracts for its engines. Bruce MacDonald at BT Alex Brown believes this after-market strategy is "highly risky". He expects tomorrow's figures to show a double-digit sales increase but margins falling again. Profits are likely to emerge at around £155m against £116m.

Rolls shares peaked at 304.5p in up, gaining 44.3 to 5,100.3, but the May. Fears that Asian orders are being cancelled or deferred and that

MARKET REPORT

sterling is having a dramatic impact. have prompted the dive.

British Aerospace, with 20 per cent of Airbus Industrie, rose 10p to 430p and BA, expressing relief that its ageing Boeing fleet was being replaced, put on 6.5p to 503p. Footsie achieved a 100.7-point gain to 5,854.4. It is comfortably

above the level hit on Friday when fears of a worldwide crash devastated sentiment. The mid cap index also perked

poor old small cap players were again in the doldrums with the

small cap index falling 3.5 to 2,285.8. Firm Far Eastern markets and a strong New York display during London hours helped the stock market recovery.

Cable & Wireless missed the

message. The shares fell 11p to 733p after CSFB downgraded its profit forecast because of the group's exposure to the struggling Hong Kong economy. The investment house cut current year's estimates by £90m to £1.6bn and next year's by £90m

HSBC, the banking group, also failed to join the rally. It was ruffled as a block of shares came on offer, falling 7p to 1,367p.

Another financial takeover bid

helped sentiment. Just weeks after long-time bid target Willis Corroon collected a US strike, the Sedgwick insurance broking group has re-ceived what the market regards as a very full offer from Marsh & McLeman, the US giant. Aon, another big US group, could, runs the feeling, be tempted to try to counter the US bid for Willis. Sedgwick shot ahead 70.5p to 213p and Willis, which has agreed a deal with Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, the break-

SHARE SPOTLIGHT share price, pence CABLE & 800 - WIRELESS

up specialist, firmed 2.5p to 213p. Abbey National improved 19p (after 42p) to 1,117p following posifive comments from Schroders. And Schroders voting shares jumped 105p to 1,540p as takeover hopes persisted.

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The Sedgwick deal drew attention to other financials, with Royal & SunAlliance gaining 27p to 558p. 647.5p. It is expected that dealings a forecast that the shares will hit in the demerged, separately listed British American Tobacco and Allied Zurich financial group will start on 8 September.

Cairn Energy slumped 30p to 130.5p, lowest for more than three years, following disappointing figures and the failure of much progress to be made in Bangladesh. Flying Flowers wilted 78.5p to

148p after producing another profits warning. The shares were almost 600p two months ago. Dawson International, the clothing group, fell 5.5p to 16p after failing to find a bidder. The shares hit 211p in 1994. Railtrack was back on the right

lines with a 55p advance to 1,457p following an investment presentation. Albright & Wilson, the chemical group, was back in the takeover spotlight. A few weeks ago the shares enjoyed a giddy run, but the speculators found they had lit on the wrong target. The shares rose 10.5p to 124.5p as the boys in dark glasses gave them another whirl.

Phytopharm, the drugs group seeking treatments from plants, climbed a 15p to 144.5p following its BAT Industries rose 20.50 to deal with Pfizer the US giant, and

200p from Panmure Gordon

Selfridges, the department store hived off from Sears, firmed 3.5p to 248.5p as British Land lifted its presumably hostile stake to 5.75 per cent, buying a further 3.64 million shares.

Barratt Developments, the housebuilder, again hit a brick wall, slipping 1p to 189.5p. Figures are due towards the end of next month. Travis Perkins, the builders' merchant, lost 29p to 394p on a stock

Torotrak, the transmissions group, continued to seek a level, falling another 7.5p to 177.5p. Vymura, the wall coverings group where tycoon Trevor Hemmings is

stake-building, hardened 21p to 145p. Emerald Energy was one of the heaviest traded shares, with Seaq putting volume at 12.7 million. The price shaded 0.5p to 7p as rumours continued about the results of its Colombian drilling, which should have been completed last week.

SEAQ VOLUME: 703.7m SEAQ TRADES: 56,540

SELECTOR, a drinks dispenser maker, slumped 91 per cent to 4p on its return from suspension. Trading in the shares was halted while it put together the sale of its Fob-Stop dispensing equipment, which is aimed at cutting pub beer loss when kegs are changed.

The market now regards Selector as a shell company, an attitude which drew an angry response from chief executive Ronen Levy. He said: "We have real activity and real customers". The company intends to develop its drink dispensing operations and is looking for acquisitions.

CADORA is raising £2.3m though a rights issue. The cash is needed because conversions and disposals of its old Foothold chain. But its Capolito Roma fashion chain is doing well and looking for acquisitions. The shares fell 0.75p to 2.25p and the nil paid rights traded at 0.05p to 0.12p.

Glamour deals add to Aggreko's solid start

HIRING OUT power and ventilation equipment to industry may not set the pulse racing, but Aggreko has proved a solid performer in the sector since it was spun out of Christian Salvesen last September.

From an initial price of just over 160p following demerger, the shares rose to 226.5p in May and have only recently shaded down in line with the market.

Chris Masters, the chief executive, has been busy building margins and return on capital across the group. Yesterday's half-year figures showing a 12 per cent rise to £12.9m was just reward for a solid performance.

glamour contracts on the way. After last year's dabble with Hollywood blockbusters, which saw it provide the equipment for the making of the film Titunic, the first half has seen contract wins for the World Cup and others lined up for the Commonwealth Games in Malaysia next month.

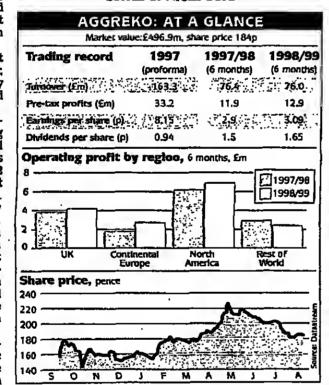
The city likes Aggreko because of its wide geographic spread, which means no single region dominates earnings. In the UK, Dr Masters has sensibly been preparing for the downturn by taking out costs. In the US the market is competitive, and margins slipped as Aggreko chased sales, but contracting out remains a growth market there. Five new depots opened in the first half with the same number scheduled for the rest of the year. In the Far East exposure is minimal.

The introduction of oil-free compressors is going ahead in the UK and Europe. These machines, which can cost £200,000 to buy, are popular in the food and electronics sectors as they emit no particles of oil in the air numped out.

Analysts expect the business to grow at 10 per cent a year and be one of the more resilient performers in a downturn. But it is not entirely immune: a serious slump in manufacturing would hurt the business, whose rating leaves no margin for error On Beeson Gregory's full-year forecast of

INVESTMENT

EDITED BY NIGEL COPE



Kalon painted into a corner

ner. The UK's largest paint

tries (ICD, its biggest rival, responded to the challenge with a fierce price-cutting campaign which put a dampener on Kalon's sales. To make matters worse, a bout of unseasonably bad weather in France, Kalon's other core market, deterred DIY enthusiasts and added to

Factor in a £1.9m currency

ket conditions will remain

tough in the second half. The

expected slowdown in the UK

housing market will add to

though. The fact that Kalon has

managed to retain high mar-

gins, way ahead of ICI's, is

proof of management's ability

to deliver efficiencies despite

the poor trading environment.

TIK has also held steady during

the half, and turnover in con-

stant currency terms was ac-

tually up 4.8 per cent. And if

Kalon's promises of sales-

boosting overseas acquisitions

are kept, growth for the year

should remain relatively solid.

The shares have come down a

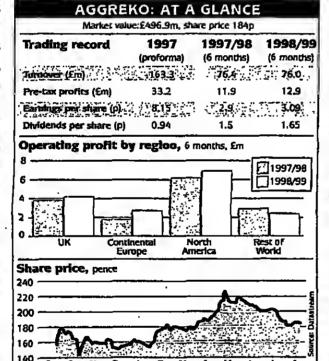
long way since their year high

of 193p reached last April, and

Market share outside the

It is not all doom and gloom,

Kalon's woes.



184 yesterday, trade on a forloss, and vesterday's 14 per cent ward rating of 21 - too high to fall in interim profits to £21m should come as no surprise. chase at these levels, but a de-Prospects are also rather bleak cent hold. as Kalon itself admits that mar-

TOUGH MARKET conditions have painted Kalon into a cormaker has been hit by a double whammy of slowing demand, especially among retailers, and increased buying power from the large do-it-yourself chains.

Imperial Chemical Indus-

87.5p. This is a multiple of just 13 times 1998 earnings, forecast at around £42m. At these levels they are certainly worth holding until better times arrive.

are trading at a five-year-low or

Identity crisis at Hambro

HAMBRO COUNTRYWIDE, it seems, is unhappy with its identity. Traditionally it has been seen as a "souped up" estate agent. But directors are now desperate to get away from the estate agency tsg and fined as a life office or "other financial".

Should shareholders care? Part of the company's identity crisis may stem from a desire to disassociate itself from the housing market. Between 1993 and 1996 its shares underperformed the market by up to 40 per cent as the effects of the downturn hit. As the housing market picked up between 1995 and 1997, so did its shares. Yesterday its price was marked down by more than 5 per cent, from 96p to 90.5p, as the City digested a fall in revenues from housing transactions.

The company has deliberately looked askance at a desperate battle for market share among some agents, which have dropped fees on house sales to as low as £500. Hambro Countrywide, keeping its fees at around 21,400, conducted transactions on just 40,568 properties in the first six months, a 10 per cent fall. But most of Hambro Countrywide's profits come from other financial services selling life insurance and pensions through its estate agency

The trouble is, few people go into an estate agent to buy life insurance unless they are also buying a house. So even this business is vulnerable to the housing cycle.

Analysts forecast earnings

per share for 1998 of 10p, giving a forward p/e of nine on yes terday's close. For housing pessimists, though, this still looks after yesterday's 5p slide they unattractive.

Irish Permanent

IRISH PERMANENT. Ireland's biggest home loan provider, yesterday reported a higher-than-expected rise in first half pre-tax profit and forecast strong growth ahead on the back of a buoyant

"The Irish economy is performing exceptionally well and, of course, 90 per cent of our business is focused on the Irish market," Roy Douglas, the chief executive, said. "We anticipate continuing strong growth." The financial services group reported a 20.5 per cent rise in first-half pre-tax profit to 31.3m Irish pounds, and a 26.4 per cent increase in earnings per share to 24.4p, both exceeding analysts'

expectations.

SHARES IN Cairn Energy plummeted yesterday after it reported interim operating profits down from £7.4m to £5.3m. There was also disappointing news from Bangladesh. The shares were down by 31p to 130.5p as Cairn chief executive, Bill Gammell, said it had only received a partial licensing award in Bangladesh. Cairn now hopes to join forces with Shell in Rajasthan.

BBA buys in US

ENGINEERING GROUP BRA has bought US aviation company Airwork for \$52m (£31.7m) from UNC. Airwork, based in Millville, New Jersey, is an independent repairer of air turbine engines, landing gear and propellers for husiness and regional aviation. BBA expects Airwork to be earnings enhancing in its first full year.

Asda Property SHARES IN Asda Property

fell 1p to 143.5p despite the company reporting pre-tax profits up 38 per cent to £6.7m for the half to 30 June. The chairman, Manny

Davidson, said the group "has substantial cash resources", adding that it remained "confident of a good performance for the full year and in the longer term".

Lesser spotted hairy high flyers

AT LAST it can be revealed: if PEOPLE AND you really want to be rich, wear a yellow checked tie with a bespoke suit, drive an open top Jaguar, take Archie Norman as your role model - and whatever you do, don't wear a beard.

These are the conclusions of the 1998 British Business Leadership Survey by KPMG Management Consulting, which polled over 200 board directors of companies with turnovers exceeding £50m.

The survey reveals several differences between high-flying business leaders - those managing companies with a growth in profitability of 30 per cent whose companies have no growth in profits.

As well as the obvious stuff high flyers tend to be ambitious, self-confident risk-takers - KPMG also found that low achievers are far more likely to wear beards than their more successful rivals.

Can it really be that simple? Well, looking outside the survey, I notice there's John Sunderland, who took over as chief executive of Cadbury Schweppes last year, shaved his beard off and watched the shares soar.

In contrast, Jim Hodkinson led New Look, the women's fashion chain, to the market earlier this year at 165p. Yet the bewhiskered chief executive

Kleinwort Benson who masterminded Lafarge's bid for Redland. There is also our very own columnist, Gavyn Davies of Goldman Sachs - but he's an economist, and therefore above such considerations.

Of the most famous bearded heroes, Richard Branson is reckoned to be the UK's best business leader by 55 per cent of the survey's less successful leaders. Only 37 per cent of the more successful leaders gave the Virgin man the thumbs-up. A significant 37 per cent of the

has seen New Look's shares fall since, closing yesterday at 130p. Some City folk seem to wear whiskers with impunity, such as Kieron Murphy, the director of corporate finance at Dresdoer

Finally, let us turn to KPMG

has framed on his office wall a 1967 letter offering him his first joh at the firm, in which his future hoss notes that young Mr Acher was wearing a beard at his interview. "Will you kindly make

more successful leaders voted

Acher caved in, shaved and

BUSINESS BY JOHN WILLCOCK



department at ING Barings has been accused of losing its grip so many times since the Dutch took over that it is nice to see some people actually joining the place. Richard Burrell, 32, hops

aboard from Warburg Dillon Read where he is currently an executive director in corporate finance. Stephen Oxenbridge, 41, is joining from Deutsche Morgan Grenfell in New York, where he is a managing director in the investment banking division, specialising in ntilities M&As. They will both be reporting to Mark Burch and Charles Irby, co-heads of developed markets corporate finance at ING Barings, when they join in the autumn.

for the clean-shaven Archie Norman, former Asda boss and Torv MP while only 22 per cent of the less successful went for

itself. The chairman of KPMG's London region, Gerry Acher,

arrangements for this to be removed." the letter says. Mr the last one.

enjoyed a meteoric career. Then last year Mr Acher

took his Aston Martin DB5 on a classic car rally from Peking to Paris. A "rather rakish" beard reappeared on the Acher chin, and remains there. Faced with his own firm's evidence, how long can he hold out against the razor?

ABN AMRO said yesterday that the chairman of its Global Equity Directorate, Icke Hamilton, has decided to leave the Bank "to pursue his interests in the corporate/industrial sector".

According to a friend Mr joying it" despite making a pile of money and will now probably pick up a number of non-executive directorships.

Mr Hamilton joined ABN Amro in 1995 when it bought Alfred Berg, the Scandinavian investment bank of which he was then chief executive.

Swedish-born, Mr Hamilton currently commutes between Scandinavia and the Smoke. He will be replaced by Nick Bannister, a former head of sales and research at UBS headhunted by Hoare Govett in 1993. Mr Bannister is already head of equities for Europe, Middle East and Africa, and has been sharing an office with Mr Hamilton for a couple of years. In this time they rebranded all ABN Amro's equity businesses into one entity, with just Chicagocorp, Alfred Berg and Hoare Govett Corporate Finance to go.

Colleagues describe Mr Bannister as energetic and a keen point-to-point rider. No doubt ABN's equity business will get a good crack of the whip.

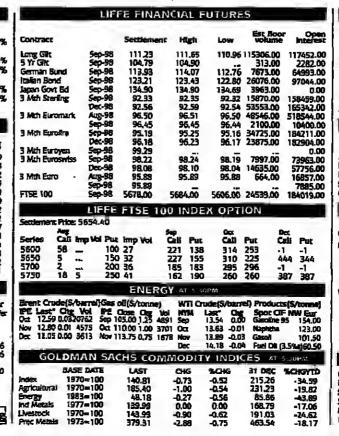
WHAT DID you feel the first time you switched on a PC for the very first time? A BT survey says the most common emotion was "to be excited" (44 per cent). The next was "baffled" (40 per cent): 15 per cent were scared, 5 per cent bored and 5 per cent disappointed.

Just I per cent felt nothing at all. I think I've felt all these over the years, ending up with

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SPORT

Rodolfo Hecht, European super league's front man, says he has football's interests at heart. Interview by Nick Harris

The man behind the plan to change football forever

RODOLFO HECHT, the architect of and a maximum of 22 games (the top the proposed European super league, said yesterday be had "absolute confidence" that the tournament would be up and running by the summer of 2000.

"Until we had the final shape of the concept, we didn't want to go public with it," he said at the central London offices of Brunswick. the public relations company which represents his Milan-based marketing and sports rights company,

"Now I definitely have that confidence [that the league will go ahead] and the mandate from the clubs [we have approached to join]."

Hecht met with Europe's leading clubs, including Manchester United and Arsenal, in London on Monday and now feels his ambition of the last three years is close to becoming a

the son of Gianni, a film producer who won a Oscar in the 70s for The Garden of Finzi

football... ESL started as Contini. His faa hobby to see if we could ther went bankdevelop something better rupt and so be took "menial" for the clubs and the fans' jobs to help the family for several years.

In 1981, he joined Fiat, and then a merchant bank. Later he went on to work as a sports marketing strategy manager for Fininvest, the holding company of the Italian media mogul Silvio Berlusconi's empire, before starting Media Partners, of which he is president, in 1992.

Berlusconi, a former Italian Prime Minister who also owns Milan of the Italian Serie A, is not directly involved in Media Partners, according to Hecht, although he is one of a number of businessmen who would be likely to exploit the possibilities a super league would offer to

"I feel grateful to Berlusconi many of my team learned a lot of the value of business from him, hut that's as far as it goes." Hecht said.

The super league, according to Hecht, would consist of 32 teams in two divisions, and there would also be a knock-out cup, the Pro Cup.

ESL games would be played on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays - and thus not unduly interfere with domestic league programmes. Each club would play a minimum of 15 games per season (playing each of the others once, home or away but not both, to be decided by a hallot)

Hoddle's right

Sir: Glenn Moore, in his column

entitled "Hoddle's evasive defence

approach

and keep a sense of

that they are both in headlines

different, and altogether more

helievable, version of events

perspective.

eight sides in each division would play round-robin or knock-out stages, a maximum of seven extra

Hecht said that each of the 32 ESL teams would be guaranteed an average of £16.8m per year. Teams in the latter stages and those which attracted higher audiences would receive more hut, compared with the £6.5m Manchester United received from Europe last season, the figures may seem attractive to some

The second competition, the Pro Cup, will feature at least another 56 teams in a knock-out tournament broadly similar to the current Uefa Cup. Again, said Hecht, participation will be based on performances In domestic competitions. He added that "at least" six further English clubs would be able to

> countries - the former Soviet republics and Europe's smaller nations in partic-

miss Hecht "We have no desire to exclude anyone. It is the clubs that are leading

fans will ultimately be losers, he said: "The fans have been fuelled by

proposals were completely transa meeting on 3 September - he was confident that his company is offering something that Uefa currently

deals, and Hecht confirmed he had contracts have yet been signed, not one penny of this competition has been promised to anyone. All

In terms of financial benefits,

ular - may said:

He said all plans were flexible and negotiable within the current framework. In response to suggestions that the contintent's haves will only become further financially polarised from the have-nots and that football

a caricature of this project." He added that Media Partners' parent, and that, after meetings with individual leagues - he will address all Premier League clubs at

The main source of Media Partners' revenue will be television already made contact with the major television operators - including Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB - that would be interested in broadcasting the ESL and, although no Hecht said: "I can assure you that

Rodolfo Hecht has 'absolute confidence' that a super league will operating by the summer of 2000 after meeting Europe's leading clubs the [television] rights of this com-

petition will be open to bids." He added, however, that be is confident deals can be done. "There have been contacts (with Sky and others]. More in terms of brainstorming to see if we're configuring the competition in the right way. Saying. Would you be ready to do this

"We are in touch with the world's largest broadcasters, but we want the product to reach the market un-

He maintained that many games will still be available on free terrestrial television, but said that his plans will involve different forms of access to the tournaments currently staged by Uefa.

The Champions' League is using only the free TV piece of the media spectrum," Hecht said, adding that pay-per-view, digital TV, and multimedia projects involving the Internet are all possibilities.

So what do Media Partners get

"We are the marketing agents," said Hecht, adding that his company would take five per cent (or £40m) of the projected £820m revenues each year He added that his company would also give five per cent per year to youth football in Europe.

Hecht's love of football stems from his university days watching Milan. "I am a guy in love with football and have a bunch of partners who are in love with football," he said. "The ESL started as a hobby to see if we could develop something better for the clubs and the fans."

What he has developed is potentially the higgest change European football has seen, and whether or not it will work depends on several factors. Even as Hecht was outlining his proposals yesterday, a meeting was taking place, in Geneva, of the Professional Leagues Committee - the Leagues, including Peter Leaver, chief executive of the Premier League - to discuss the future of European football competitions.

The committee, set up over a year ago to make representations to Uefa about how domestic leagues feel European tournaments should be run. has long felt there needs to be more equitable distribution of revenue for participating clubs. The committee also feels clubs should have greater opportunities to negotiate television

deals for themselves. At present, the clubs in the Champions' League receive around 55 per cent of revenues and Uefa operates an effective monopoly on European club football. Yesterday's meeting in Geneva had been called a "fact-finding mission" by the Premier League, but it is understood that most of those present, especially Peter Leaver and his Italian counterpart, Franco Carraro, have known

Partners' plans for some months. Leaver said in a radio interview yesterday that he wanted any Premier League clubs take part in European tournaments to do so under Uefa's auspices. It is therefore most

likely that the committee will decide to use the threat of non-Uefa league as a stick with which to beat Uefa into submission.

There still remains the possibility, however, that - should Uefa not come up with radical changes to its tournaments - that clubs approached by Media Partners will be attracted to their set-up. It is also understood that the clubs, including Manchester United and Arsenal, have received legal advice from the European Commission in Brussels that they are within their rights to join a breakaway, while not at threat from being thrown out of their do-

Uefa, which will hold its executive committee meeting on Saturday in

Monaco, having possibly called an emergency meeting of leading clubs on Friday, is expected to move quickly to kill off threats of a Media Partners-run league. Europe's football ruling body has already re-portedly refused Media Partners' offer to work in tandem on European competitions and is considering an

David Ashdown

expansion of the Champions' League and a revamped Cup competition instead. It will have a large body of support, simply because many clubs will not want to change the status quo as long as Uefa is flexible. The main bone of contention will be money.

The clubs - assuming they are con-

fident Media Parters can deliver -

may be tempted buy huge leaps in

They will also want to know, if Media Partners can deliver the goods, why can't Uefa? The answer to that will be discussed around Europe all week.



Post letters to Sports Desk and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2894 or e-mail to sport@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

on issue of trust and truth", has lost touch with reality. down the story would have stirred In a time when football is coming down with money, is up a hornet's nest of sensation and analysed ad infinitum from adverse publicity. Any public figure every conceivable camera angle knows that, these days, to be cagey, and is inflating itself ever more evasive and mendacious. with its own self-importance, it is occasionally, with the media is the incumbent on responsible only way to stay ahead. reporters to take a step back ARTHUR PATES

The only parallel between Glenn Sir: Muttiah Muralitharan yet Hoddle and President Clinton is again showed what a real currently. So what if Hoddle gave a off-spinner looks like hy turning the ball at right angles unlike Robert Croft. One cannot surrounding Gazza in his book? On categorise Croft as an "offthe eve of World Cup matches, to spinner". Croft cannot spin the ball have done anything other than play at all. Maybe he could be classed

as a gentle "up and down" bowler I am very surprised to see that England continue to select him despite his obvious lack of ability. Croft cost England the game in the final of the triangular series. HAREEN MARCELLINE Stoneywood Road

Sir. The other day I saw a slicker on a car window saying "BP, the official fuel of the World Cup Squad!"

Either BP fuel is a performance enhancer - in which case it is illegal. Or it is NOT - in which case you'd think they'd keep quiet about it! THE REV CHRIS GARRETT

Sir. Last Saturday, as is my wont, I ventured down to the local bookmaker's armed with a sizeable proportion of my wage packet. All week, superb racing from York had been on the television, but as I am part of the working class I was unable to enjoy the viewing or the betting. Therefore by Saturday I was champing at the bit to have a good bet and watch some quality horses.

Instead what did I get? Some atrocious racing from Sandown, Ripon, Chester, Lingfield, Market Rasen etc. which made betting unwise and unenjoyable because of the appalling standard or the ridiculously small fields.

Whoever claims to be in control of racing nowadays should make . sure that Saturdays - the day that the majority of the non-titled section of the public get off - host the best of the week's racing and not hold it in midweek when only the privileged or the unemployed are able to watch and bet. TIM CANDY

Sir: Why has it once again taken the England cricket selectors until the last Test of the summer before opting for the player who is most likely to solve their longterm middle-order batting prob-

I care not a jot about the fact that Ben Hollioake has been out of form with his county. Surrey, this season. In the words of the mighty Ian Botham: form is temporary, class is per-

It was barely a year ago that Hollicake the younger was single handedly winning the Benson and Hedges Cup final for Surrey with one of the great one-

But, more than that, he has proved himself as a more than adequate all-rounder when touring with the England A team.

Hollioake is the future, so enough of this pussyfooting around with the likes of his hroth-

er Adam, Mark Ealham or Ronnie Irani. Who cares if it takes him a while to get into his stride – look at the chances Graeme Hick and Mark Ramprakash have been given to establish themselves in the set-up?

Of course, picking match-winners in the last game of the series is nothing new for England. Remember Devon Malcolm? He was called up only for the last Test at against South Africa on the tour before last and responded with nine wickets in the second innings at The Oval. If not, what about Phil Tufnell, who spun a vicious web to earn England a drawn series against the West Indies. Please, England, if you are going to win the Ashes you must start with your best line-up in Australia, not wait until the series is all over That line-up includes young Hollioake. M GREGORY



Richmond's ground for optimism

The Marin

BY DAVID LLEWELLYN

RICHMOND WERE not even allowed to set foot on the grass of their new ground when they visited it yesterlay. They may have thought they had e well when they decided to up sticks and head west in search of rugby fortune. After the trials, tribulations and thorough bloody-mindedness of Richmond Borough Council, who seemed to block the

Ground headquarters into the 21st of the pitch is vital. And if there is salivating at the prospect of selling leaving the ground. We had tried and seemed the perfect solution. And it probably still is.

shocked faces when first their Wales international lock, Craig Quinnell, then their chief executive, Tony Hallett, were each in turn told, in no uncertain manner to "get off the grass" by the protective grounds-

pointed £37m Madejski Stadium it good again will mean a rise in their rent. Since that is around £15,000 per match day there is little likelihood But there were one or two of Richmond wanting to see any hike in it for a while. And, anyway, they were not the only ones not allowed on the grass. The presence of a falconer and his Harris Hawk ensured that not even a pigeon could set foot

on the hallowed turf. club's every plan to take their decrepit and run down Athletic

They did so pdq. And who can have themselves a stunning income. The marketing department must be It has to be said that Richmond

Century, a deal to share Reading any unnecessary or gratuitous dam-football Club's magnificently apage it is likely that the work to make corporate hospitality and tables in the exclusive 120-seat restaurant. In comparison with their previous facilities this is Super League.

As their millionaire backer Ashley Levett said: "In the professional era Richmond at the Athletic Ground was a dead duck." He added: "One of the sorriest sights for me last winter came on one of the coldest nights of the year. We had an evening match with Leicester. We had had problems arranging the fixture as it was. Then it began raining at half-time and people began year deal.

failed to get planning permission to put up a cover on a temporary stand and to see everyone going at that point, that was the last straw for

me. I knew we had to move." It turned out to be a canny move. Their main sponsors are software giants Oracle, whose UK headquarters are on a nearby industrial park. The proximity prompted Oracle's bosses to renew their contract with the club a year ahead of schedule. As a result Richmond have landed a £1.5m windfall in a three-

core membership to ferry their allegiance the 40-odd miles along the M4 is still to be ascertained. "The uptake of season lickets is about half what we finished up with last year," Hallett admitted, "while the membership interest is also at about 50 per cent." Hallett predicted that season ticket sales and membership would be up on last year once people have come along to view their

awesome new setting. There are plans to hus people from the Athletic Ground to the Madejski Stadium where they can

Whether they can coax the hard watch a collection of seriously competitive players. Seven summer signings include New South Wales centre Matt Dixon, Ireland A lock Brian Cusack, from Bath, and wing Nick Walne, a Cambridge Blue. Laurent Cahannes, 34, the former France flanker, has joined from Harlequins. He promised he will be at his best. "Since this is going to be my last season in top flight rugby I should like to win something.

Provided they are allowed on the grass there is every prospect of some silverware appearing at the Madejski Stadium,

World Rally Championship showdown: Flying Finn on record-breaking run in pursuit of third title | Payment of

The making of Tommi Makinen

BY NICK PHILLIPS

LAST WEEKEND Tommi Makinen won the Rally of Finland, the fastest event on the World Championship calendar, for the fifth time in a row to break Shekhar Mehta's longstanding record of four successive wins in the gruelling East African Safari Rally. But where Mehta was very much a Safari rally specialist, Makinen is an all-rounder - certainly one of the top three drivers currently competing and, arguably, the best of

At 34, Makinen is in his prime as a rally driver. He is a shy man with Agn extrovert driving style. His record already bears comparison with the long line of Finnish rally superstars like Hannu Mikkola, the unrelated Timo Makinen, Markku Alen and Juha Kankkunen and it is sure to become a lot more impressive over the next few years. Makinen is now competing in only his fourth full season at world level and he has already won the World Championship twice, in 1996 and 1997. This season may not always have gone to plan he has won three rallies, crashed out twice and three times his Mitsubishi Lancer has let him down - hut withthree rounds left, he could well win a third championship on the trot.

That would be another record. No driver has won more than two World Kankkunen has won more than two at any stage. Makinen himself is very keen to win another world champianship, but records per se do not im-Hess him. "It's nice to make some kind of record," he said, "but I don't away the whole time without really really think about that. I just want to be as good as possible and beat

There is little doubt that he has the speed to do just that. "For pure speed from the start of a rally," said Richard Burns, the rising young British driver who is Makinen's everywhere. Now he knows how to

team-mate at Mitsubishi, "he and Colin McRae are the fastest. The way Tommi wins rallies is to be on the pace throughout the event, but blindingly quick on two or three stages. It's very similar to the way Colin would do it, too, whereas someone like (the current championship leader] Carlos Sainz or



Makinen: Extrovert style

RACE FOR TOP PRIZE

1 Carlos Sainz (Sp) Yoyota) 47pts
2= Tomani Maldinen (Fin) Mitsubishi
Colin McRae (GB) Subaru 38
4 Juha Kankkereen (Fin) Ford 31
5 Didler Auriol (Fr) Toyota 30
6 Richard Burns (GB) Mitsubishi 23.
World Championship For Manufacturers
1 Toyota 72pts; 2 Mitsubishi 61; 3 Subaru 52;
4 Ford 40.

12-14 Occober: San Remo Rally 5-8 November: Rally of Australia 22-24 November: RAC Rally

Kankkunen win them by working doing any one spectacular stage."

This winning strategy is one he has built up over the years. According to Phil Short, his team manager, Makinen's talent was raw when he first joined the team in late 1994. "Then, he would try to go flat out select the stages to attack. His driving is much more intelligent."

Makinen started rallying in 1985. His father had competed in a minor way, hut Tommi is unsure what sparked his passion. "For as long as I can remember, I've just dreamed of being a rally driver," he said. In the 1970s, young Tommi watched as Kankkunen, who comes from Laukaa, 10km away from the farm at Pumpola where Makinen grew up, cleaned up in local rallies.

Kankkunen went on to become world champion an unprecented four times and as Makinen grew up and started to compete he became Kankkunen's protégé, first in tractor pulling, another of Kankkumen's stamping grounds, and then, from 1985, in rallies. After an apprenticeship in local events, he moved on and by 1989 was a winner at European championship level.

The successes continued and in 1994 the big breaks started to fall into place. He contested the British Rally Championship with Nissan and was hired by Ford for his home world championship event - the 1,000 Lakes Rally (now renamed the Rally of Finland). He won that and later in the year joined Mitsubishi for a full world championship programme in 1995.

Now his dream has come true he is not only a rally driver, but one of best of his era. He is not sure how long he can continue at this level - like most of his competitors he finds the relentless schedule exhausting - but he is certainly looking forward to the rest of this season. "I think it will be a hig fight hetween Colin [McRae]. Carlos [Sainz] and me. Last weekend I was really happy with this car Ithe Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution V) for the first time, and we have time to improve it more before [the next round in] San Remo. I'm very

Tommi Makinen turns on the speed on his way to winning the Rally of Finland on Sunday LAT | Australia.

fine leaves Gregory on a warning

RUGBY LEAGUE

ANDY GREGORY, the Solford coach. escaped further punishment by the League vesterday when he finally paid an outstanding £1,000 fine. The former Wigan, Widnes and Great Britain scrum-half was ordered to appear before the League's board of directors after failing to pay the fine. imposed for comments he made to the referee Steve Ganson in May.

He faced the possibility of having to pay an additional £1,500, which was suspended at the time of the first hearing but the directors let him off with a warning.

However, he is still in trouble with the administration after being accused of making further disparaging comments to another referee, Karl Kirkpatrick, during his club's defeat by Leeds last month. That matter will be heard by the disciplinary panel and Gregory, who is already banned from the touchline for the rest of the season, could face the threat of suspension.

In a statement, the RFL's media manager, Peter Rowe, said: "The poard listened to representation from Mr Gregory regarding his personal circumstances and decided to impose no additional penalty.

"However, he was strongly warned by the chairman about his future conduct and was given advice about how to conduct himself in the future. A further accusation of referee abuse during the Salford-Leeds natch was deferred to a future meeting of the RFL's disciplinary sub-committee when witnesses will be called."

Oldham sacked their coach Paddy Kirwan yesterday with only three games remaining in their Second Division campaign. Kirwan. 37, who was not under contract, makes way for assistant Mick Coates, who will take charge for the last three games.

The decision of the four-man board was taken following Sunday's 17-2 defeat at Batley, which damaged the club's hopes of promotion.

The new Gateshead franchise is poised to name Shaun McRae and Kerrod Walters as its inaugural coach and captain respectively. McRae, the current St Helens coach who has been told his contract is not being renewed, has been the new club's first choice to guide it through its formative period. His three years at Saints brought two Challenge Cups and the first Super League title.

McRae has also worked alongside Walters with the Australian squad. The 30-year-old former Brisbane Broncos hooker has won eight caps for his country and will be the first of at least a dozen signings from

Ford fix up prime pair

Touring Car Championship season by signing up two of this season's top BTCC champion and finished runthree drivers: Alain Menu and Anthony Reid.

Ford's move underlines its determination to halt a series of disappointing seasons for the Mondeo and secure a regular place among the front-runners. Menu is widely regarded as the best driver in the debut driving a BMW in 1992.

THE FORD team has pulled off a world of the front-wheel drive Super seasons. His move signals an end to a relationship with Renault which dates back to 1993, and a return to Prodrive, the team which Ford has switched its programme to for 1999, in which Menu made his BTCC

Reid, 39, is now in only his second major coup for the 1999 British Touring cars used in the BTCC. The BTCC season, but he has behind him 35-year-old Swiss is the reigning a long and successful professional career in Japan and mainland Euner-up in each of the previous three rope, and has this year won as many races as anyone in the championship (four) and taken more pole positions and fastest laps than any other driver. For his current employer, Nissan, Reid is currently second in the BTCC points standings, with Menu third.

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Flight proves

Roche hangs up his boots

THE JOCKEY Christy Roche him and the one thing about yesterday announced his retirement from the saddle. in the saddle and a tough man Speaking at Tralee, Roche, 48, the seven-times Irish Champion jockey, said he made his decision while driving to the course for yesterday's racing.

This game comes down to

"I decided in the car," he said. "I have had a good innings and have decided it's the right time to quit."

Roche achieved two Classic victories in England when guiding the David O'Brien-trained Secreto to a 14-1 success in the 1984 Derby and partnering the 50-I rank outsider Jet Ski Lady to win the 1991 Oaks for Jim

The jockey was also oo the mark with O'Brien's 1982 Irish and French Derby winner Assert, Bolger's St Jovite in the 1992 version of the Irish Classic and the Aidan O'Briestrained Desert King in last

year's running.
Other Irish Classic successes included Ballymore (1972), Nikoli (1980), the filly Triptych (1985) and Desert King (1997) in the Irish 2,000

And, in the fillies' version of the race, he was successful on board Sarah Siddons (1976), More So (1978) and Ridgewood Pearl (1995). He also captured the Irish St Leger in 1974 with

His weighing room col-league, John Reid, yesterday paid tribute to Roche: "I was in Ireland for three years for Vincent [O'Brien] and rode against

FIRST SHOW

Horse	C	H	L	S	1
Absolute Utop	a 10-3	10-3	31	103	7-5
kebela Gorza	gs 82	92	92	11-2	51
Night City	\$-1	11-2	51	92	41
Fishing Spray	11-2	92	51	11-2	6-1
Soft Thurs	13-2	13-2	6-1	6-1	6-1
Pinchincha	11-2	45	7-1	61	51
Billarge	81	B-1	9-1	61	\$-1
La Chatalaire	16-1	16-1	16-1	141	12-1
Kadhenner	20-1	20-1	23-1	30-1	25-1

Christy is that he's a tough man out of it. He's not afraid of work - he's the hardest-working jockey and everything he

hard work and at the end of the day Christy was one of the hardest workers I have ever seen, and I think he will make a great trainer too, because he is not afraid of getting his hands dirty, and he is a hell of a good judge. His record speaks for itself. He has been a fantastic jockey over the years, very consistent right to the end. I rode in Ireland quite a bit and Christy never gave any quarter and hats off to him, he was a great rider."

RICHARD EDMONDSON Nap: Navarre Samson (Worcester 3.30) NB; Ten Past Six (Carlisie 3.50)

Bionic was yesterday well backed to win next year's 1,000 Guineas with the bookmakers Coral, who were forced to trim her to 7-1 from 8-1 as the liabilities mounted up.

Only two fillies have so far attracted any support of note for the first 1999 fillies' Classic, the Henry Cecil-trained Bionic and Mick Channon's Bint Allayl, and they share favouritism in Coral's list.

Bionic has been backed at all rates down from 33-1 and today's support took our liabilities on the filly to well over six figures," reported Simon Clare,

Guineas ante-post market has lacked strength and depth and we desperately need some exciting performances by the fillies this autumn to explode it into life," added Clare.

1999 1,000 Gutness: Corat: 7-1 Brd Aley, Borne (from 8-1), 16-1 Etzsaz, 20-1 Velen-tine Grl, Fairy Queen, Crystal Chemt, 25-1 Crete Of Gold, Kareymoth, Pescara, Wannobe Grand, Mother Of Pearl, Wythical William Hilb: 7-1 Bint Albyl, Bonic, 16-1 Crystal Charm, 20-1 Elizabaz, Kuraymah, 25-1 Crede Of Gold, Salcha, 33-1 bar.

RESU

PONTEFRACT

2,15: (6) 2yo handicap)
1. CASHIKI D Sweeney 16-1
2. Montague Tigg G Duffield 13-3
3. Bundy A Clark 14-
4. Diletto W Supple 16-
Also: 3-1 fav Riverblue (5th). 9-1 Golder
Charm 12-1 Bodfan Street, Octobel Sam, 14-
Bodfan Anna (6th), 16-1 Landican Lane 20-1
Call Me Lucky. Springs Noblaquest, 25-1
Dasher And Stasher, Tuuk, 33-1 Miss Multi
ply. Paper Flight.

18 ram. Sh-hd. nk. nk. 1%. 1 (Winns nut filly by Case Law out of Nishiki, trained by Bryn Faling at Cowbridge, for The Val-ley Communical Total: £1070; £230, £120.

2.45: (Im 2! selling stakes)
1. MOONLIGHT FLIT L Charnock 4-1
2. Desert Power
3. Perecapa
Also: 9-4 fav Diomond Crown, 11-2 Advance
East (6th), 6-1 Final Stab. 14-1 Beau Cyra-
no (4th). Wild City J. 25-1 Komesta. 50-1 Fan-
tasy Fight. Marx Mistress (5th). Second

12 ran. 1%, rk. 1, 1%, 4 liVernar boy billy

3.15; (6/ 2yo stakes)
1 HAAFIZ R Hills 2-5 tav
I from the in-
2. Bon Ami K Darley 7-2
3. Westminster City K Fellon 6-1
3' ALEGORITHMAN AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND A
3 ran. 2.1 (Winner bay colt by Green Decert
out of Michaely Lady, trained by Ben Han-
OUT OF MICHAELY LEGY, WARRED BY CHEN FROM
bury at Newmarket, for Hamdan Al Mak-
THE PARTY AND THE PARTY AND THE
trumt. Tota: CLIQ DF: E150 CSF E194

I. BLOOMING AMAZING .. K Darley 9-1 2. Goldfame Emma O'Gorman 10-1 3 Bollin Terry _____ K Fallon 11-4 fav Also: 7-1 Suez Tornado, 15-2 Pride of Pendia 8-1 indium (4th), 9-1 Jay-Owe-T 11-1 Royal Result, 14-1 Polska Mod (8th), 16-1 Cransider, Duraid, 33-1 Takhlid. 12 ran, 1, 2%, hd. 1 %, 1/2 (Winner bey gelding by Maziker out of Cornflower Blue. by Les Eyre at Thirsk. for R Partners) Total \$1020, \$280. 2300, £190, DF: £4910, CSF £8902, Tricast



LTS	Į
4.15: (2m 2l stakes)	
1, JAMAICAN FLIGHT J Fortune 11	-2
2. GrimshawJ Quien 1-5 ft	v
3. Hullbank P McCabe 6	
3 ran. 1/1, distance. (Winner bay horse by Su	
shine Forever out of Kalamone, trained to	
trained by Mrs Sue Lamyman at Lincoln, I	
E I amountain Trates C130 DE: C160 CS	

1. KING UNG ._ lett J Fortune 100-30 fav G Parkin 14-1 ern (Sih). 14-1 French Grit, 16-1 Distant King, Night Auction, Plum First, 20-1 Breakn

Even, 25-1 Art (6th), 25-1 Dut Life Magic. 33-1 Brichwood Sun, Lan Jadeod, Marylebone, 50-1 Aberkeen. 18 ran (h. shd. 7), 3,76 (Winner bay geld Daughter, trained by Eric Elston at Longton. for The Pain And Heartache Pertnership £5740 CSF: £6566 Theast: £23357

4 npn. 9, 8, nk. (Winner bay or brown coll by Alleged out of Symphonic Music, trained by John Hills at Cambourn for Freddy Bien-Stock) Tota: £850 DF. £840 CSF: £43.76 Jackpot: Not won; £23,75475 carried for-

ward to Lingfield today. Placepol: \$71050 Quadoot: \$5210

LINGFIELD

2.30: 1. ELLWAY STAR (J Red) 9-1: 2. Dev Retta 8-11 fav; 3. Price of Passion 9-1. 1 \$13.40. \$3.50 \$110 \$2.20 DF \$710 CSF

3.00: 1. SOLD FRONTIER (Martin Dwyer 4.1 tav. 2. Tinker's Surprise 7-1; 3. Core Kite 12-1 18 ran. 2 sh hd (Kitory, Radient). Tota: 6430: 6130, 6200, 6330, 6220 DF: STORD CSF: 22737 Treast: 229704 Following an objection by the clerk of the scales. Bep-tismal Rock who finished fourth was disquelified and placed last for falling to wrigh

3.30: 1. ELLIANAH (G Carter) 5-4 fav. 2. Dorald 5-2; 3. Celestial Bay 50-1. B ran. Sh hd. 2%, (J Dunlop, Arundal). Tota: £2.30; \$130, \$100, \$960, . OF: \$230, CSF: \$402 4.00: 1. THE THRUSTER (Martin Dwyer) 7-2 tay: 2. Coverstedd (2-1; 3. Abu Camp 18-1 16 ran. 3.2 (M Tregoning, Lambourn Tota: 5270, 120, 5310, 5430, 5190 DF, 52550 CSF: \$42.47 Treast: 558354.

4.30: 1, HONEYSIRD (J Red) 3-1; 2, Seat-be Ribbon 3-1, 3, Barder Owerry 7-1 7 ran. 11-4 lav Hever Golf Passion (Sth) Nic. 1%. (W. Muir. Lambourn). Total: £4.50, £2.10. \$120 DF: \$550 CSF \$1148 5.00: 1. PERSIAN SABRE (Fl Cochrone) 14-1; 2. Harlequin Walk 10-1; 3. May Gureen Magnar 10-1, 18 van, 3-1 fav Mighty Magic 14(h) 1, nk, (V Saone, Aston Rowant) Tota: 2010: 2800. C300, C370 DF: C12770. CSF C14668 Thoast: £136609 NR: Misconduct. Ptacepot: £27830. Guadpot: £8050



3.10 BDDDINGTONS MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) (Div II) £3,000 added 2YO 71 140yds £2,805

CLASS F) (Driv II) £3,000 added 2YO 77 140yds £2,805

BURTORS POLIN (Cristopher Buron & Roger Ingert) R Ingert 9 0. Sandars 7

BOOLINE, MISTRATO (1) (May Jin Hopper) J Frantaive 8 0. R Cocherne 9 3. R Coche

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Burtons Folly: Cassacku coit, half-trother to winning refer Tulgernais.

Colonal Mustand: Promise on debut and given considerate ride when 10 lengths eighth of 12 to Indian Wenter at Werwick (70, Probetty capable of better.

Deploy Ventame: Improving with swary map. Showed planty of courage when basten nack by Joyeux Player at Heydock (70, and should be suited by longer trip.

Ghazzi: Phyng high and showed little either a slow start when 8 lengths 13th of 16 to Seytern at Sandown (70 or obout, 8 met to stay and open to considerable improvement. It's Magic Megic Playe getting, half-brother to 71 and thrif witner Buzz. Shable had win with nestorem here yesterder, so any merical move should be headed.

Once Enough: Shapped up on previous efforts when staying-on % length shall to DanneJulie at Sandown (51). Locale a sprinter on breading and longer litip is a worny.

Outhorn Broad: E000gns Molyan cold out of a Princh maker. Merch ball

Mouton; Never nearer after slow start when 8 lengths of night of 77 to Juno Mariowe at Kempton (70, Chrevely-Plack Saides entry, but sprint-lord and trip is worny.

Vellation Azzer: 33-1 and steatys behind when 17 lengths 11th of 14 to Deadly Nghisshade at Beith (90, Little experient chance.)

arrace at team phy Luce apparent creator. VERDICT: DEPLOY VENTURE did suificient at Haydock to suggest he will cope with anything but an above-average newcorner. He is on the upgrade and the longer trip will be in his two.c. A Cheveley Park only suggests that Mouton will step up on the debut deplay, but there is statical of speed in her pedigma and a biggor threat may come from Ghaszi, who promises to leave debut running behind before long.

3.40 STELLA ARTOIS CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) (Div I) \$23,000 added 2YO of Penalty Value £2,595

FORM GUIDE

VERDICT: ANY MOORE has been coming along sleadly and has not been over-burdened on latest Brighton running. She has the advantage of a draw close to the rails and may find her most serious opposition coming farm the top stall, where Phatest Park tooks destraed to improve considerably on Follestone form. Petaley State is en-titled to respect and a big show by Knockersheck Neitre cannot be ruled out.

4.10 STELLA ARTOIS CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) (Div II)

1 23,UJU BORGED 2YU 67 PRIBITY Value 52,595

1 6025 ROBBER RED (25) (Dard Alen) B Neprins 9 3 Pet Eddery 5
006 DAMONO GEZER, (16) (J 8 R Leiture Ltd) R Hamon 8 0 Dene O'Nell 7
007 ITSALLHAPPENING (64) (The Aveytey Parineship) T J Neughbor 8 9 Sept
FORM GUIDE Robber Red: Runner-up in two malders and a novice states over spirit distances. Below best over 77 on good to firm latest start. Provious form gives him docent chance themse of the monthly not fully wound up in maiden and two concitions states, of course over 2/6 months before latest. Needs to improve, but does drop in class.

off course over 2% months before latest. Needs to improve, but does drop it class treathaspecing 33-1 in three majdors, beater about 8 lengths when 2th of 22 at Window (5), good) and towards represents the three date. Plenty to prove Lement: Placed in two sellers and it datines before winning claimer over this course and in (good) last time by a neck. May well make the frame again.

Zota Power: Drops in grade from majdens and nurseries. Unrised over 61 so far, but shaped as 81 through suff when the property of 10 pesters about 37-lengths) in median auction majden over 71 at Epsom second start, but little chance on two 61 efforts inorty in Promises 51 winner at 58th in auction event in May and seller (viscord first time, by short head) in August. Also good chance on 61 firm, but below best latest Monring Chance 55-11/4 lengths second of 19 to Red Changer in valuable seller at York (5), firm) last week. Further improvement would see her go close here.

Elijanah (Gary Carter) hangs on to win the Lager & Lime Maiden Stakes at Lingfield yesterday

LINGFIELD

	HYPERION
2.10 MUSALSE (nap)	4.10 Morning Chorus
2.40 Commonwealth	4.40 Almost Amber
3.10 Deploy Venture	5.10 Absolute Utopia (nb)
3.40 Phuket Park	5.40 Intlassh

GOING: Turf - Good to Firm (Good in pleases); AW - standard.
STALLS: Straight course - stands side; round course 8 AW - Inside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: High from 5 to 71 Holyds.
Listi-hand, sharp undutating course.
Course is SE of town on 82038. Lingfeld station (served by London, Victoria) adjoins course ADMESSIGNE Cub 5'S; Fernity Endosure Ctl. CAR PARIC Cub 5'S; remander free.
LEADING TRAINERS: G L Moore 85-655 (12%), M Johnston 53-295 (6%), R Hannon 50-375 (13374), Misse G Kelfreyny 38-245 (155%), S Dow 36-453 (87%), B LEADING JOCKEYS: A Clark 74-613 (121%), R Cochrene 66-389 (17%), S Sendere 56-571 (118%), B Whitworth 51-355 (144%), O Holland 47-220 (214%), III FAVOURITES: 75-2273 (833%).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Secreey (218), Ruanting (visioned, 340), La Chatalaine (visioned, 310), Truewin (540).

THE H P RINGER HANDICAD (CLASS E) 53 000 added 3VO

П	<u>2.10</u>	2m (AW) Penalty Value £2,364	4000U 01
1	400336	KATIES CRACKER (SE) (J. Miler) M Quin 97	A Wholen
1 2		SECRECY (5) (H R H Prince Folid Salment) P Cole 9 8	
		NOCTURNE (12) (SF) #Achdere Thoroughered Recing Ltd) J HES 95	
11	600053	CAPERICALLIE (14) (Flaire Becarical Services Ltd D Micros 9 0	- F Norton
1 5		MAR. SHOT (30) (BF) (MacDonald Making S Dow 8 10	
16	1552680	LACTY FELCK (12) (0) (The Felix Roumest Portnership S Melor & S	
Ιž	354224	MUSALSE (19) (Als C Backley/McGleton Park Roong VR) P Hoston S 4. DOUBLEY BAY (36) (The S P Partnechot) Dr J Scorpt 8 3 SHAMELES (16) (The Shambles Partnechot) O Margarson S 2	C Lowther
l à	00000	DOUBLE OF RAY CAS (The S.P. Partnertwi Dr. J. Strand 8.2	O Bardwell
1 6	000532	SHAMESLES (16) (The Shambles Partnership) O Margarson 5 2	M House
Ιń	4000	THE ROBE (13) (Gordon W Day) A Carest 8 1	J Total
1 ~	40900	OMAR'S ODYESEY (7) (Retard J Cohen) P Methel 7 10	S Maden 20 1
J "	ALC:	BEZZE LEZZE (12) (R Fashing O Thorn ? 10	M Rober (20
I ≝	Avril .	- 12 declared -	
۱.,		white Total After Town transform contacts Directs Armin Test After	

er, 12-1 Capercellie, Shembles, 14-1 others 1867. Spowitz 3 8 4 A Whelen (5) 13-2 (G Cyzer) drawn (14) 14 ran

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Keller's Cracker; Southwell al-weather warner at Irn 3f. Felt 31/4 langers third to Court
Sharred at Notificiption (Irn 3f) in May but weighted up to hit and doubtful etaper
Secrecy; First outing for four months when 10 langers ask of 13 to Ming Darius at Windsor
(Irn 4f) Not to rece beyond first at and doubtful stayer. Al-weather investormer
Notichmed Al-weather previousner. Charme on 27/4 langers for invitor of cross-eners Spirit at
Think (Irn 4f) but proving head to win with and may not have stayed 2m last time
Cupercalitie: Plating class early season form on al-weather. Beel race for some time when,
upped in trip, 7 langers third of 7 to Absentice at Notingham (Irn 6f)
Neal Short Not to race on al-weather, improved last three starts and chance on 5 langers
second of 5 to Pressures at Nameurouf (Irn 6f). Shays well and chance on 5 langers
Lady Feltic Improved when overcoming trouble to best this, Paddes 1/4 langers at Roberstone (Irn). Weighted with chance but mercomen to all-weather.
Naturelace; Consistent performer on turf and all-resisters. Every chance on 1/4 langers second to Norski of Wolverhampson (Irn 7f) in Juna, eight bengtim clear of third
Doubtiff Bery, Little sign of shally on turi 7/8 langers eighthn of 5 to Pressures at Yarmouth
over Irn 6f last time) and newcorner to all-weather. over in 68 less larrel and revocates to di-weather.

Shamblace Good effort at weights when 3% largers second of the Titas Pullio at Windson (the 40 effor) last time. On upgrade but yet to techts any and uppower on all-weather.

The Rober improvemental and has yet to race on all-weather.

Constitution of the process of the stream of rainford of the continuent of the continuent last technique of the stream Originally. Very poor of fur our showed small allowed at the 2 on any real and 2 on any real any real and 2 on any real and 2 on any real and 2 on any real any real and 2 on any real any real and 2 on any real any real and 2 on any real and 2 on any real any real any real and 2 on any real
ı	, om	Dillage on it orbitoes belong as an
	2.	O BODDINGTONS MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKE (CLASS F) (ON I) £3,000 added 2YO 71 140yds £2,805
	1	60 ALASTAUR SMELLE (18) (W.) Grodey) B HES 9 0
	3	O BERTH OF THE BILLIES (DS) (Bob Laternari) J Durlop 8 0T Sprains
ľ	ä	8 COMMONWEALTH (28) (Horizon Thomachtred Packs) Ltd. G Louis 90 Pat Eddary
1	4	MICHERELDER (Nrs Angels Speyer) J S Moore 0 0 P P Morphy (A)
	5	HIGH TATRA (Risk Norton) S Woods 90
ľ	5	5 OPEN APING (70) (Street Manage) C British 90 Holland

FORM GUIDE

Alastair Smellis: Relused to settle both starts but not disgraped when 3 longitis severally of it? to Wichoo in discent Newmarket 77 modes. Open to improvement, Birth Of th Blues: Well-bred son of Black 35-1 and never in hart after slaw start when 13 lengths 6th of 15 to Sayhars at Sandown (71). Probably needs time Commonwealth: Week in market but promising debut when, hampened dose home, 11/s lengths seets of 11 to Lady Much at Episom (71). Lively to improve considerably Highliesden: Unblest colt, half-brother to Im 21 winner River Fronties. High Tabras Polish Registal colt, brother to 3 winning hardler and half-brother to time Patewinners. One to note in the market.

High Tetra: Poish Poish Cott, brother to a warring hurder and half-brother to three Pat venners. One to note in the market of pen Arms. Most Weborth half-brother to smart 71 performer Cool Jazz. Very green, but some tale progress when 8 langues that of 7 to Patacho at Yarmouth (60 in June Stable in better form now and improvement Belly Redouble: Has not progressed ence "/ langue that to Moon Buzzard at Polyasome (60 in May Not diagraced behind Mirratopa in Newmarket 71 nursary last time. Bitter Sweet: Sweeped up on previous efforts when never nearer 6 langues to that to to hua Angel at Kempton (75, Longer the should sust and Berly to take a hand on Has Angel at Kempton (75, Longer the should sust and Berly to take a hand can Warrer on Warrette (70) debut Should improve.

Canadian Approval: Pulled hard early but kept on well when 8 lengths fifth of 12 to Indian Warrer on Warrette (70) debut. Should improve.

Dream On Deye: Dolphin Street fifty had-sister to 4 winners including enert spirater Proud Native. Top could be a problem on breading.

VERDICT: Deald Seworths youngsters irrequently progress with racing, and BITTER SWEET showed she was going the right way with an improved eithert at Kempton. With strong handling and an extra half-harlong size should go obes. Companymenth, whose debut from has worked out reasonably well, expects as another titley improver, and there are possibilities about Open Arms and Caraction Approvel.

Fortune's flair 1-5 favourite at Pontefract yesterday. His mount, 11-2 shot Jamaica Flight, overturned hot favourite Grimshaw in the Phil Bull Trophy.

Fortune, widely expected to ride for leading owner Robert Sangster next season, con- £31,000 in major bets alone. tacted trainer Sue Lamyman pleading for the ride as soon as he knew Jamaican Flight was entered. "Jimmy rang us up earlier in the week," Lamyman said. "He rode the horse to he second last year and said he could win it this time. He's riding so well at the moment and you don't turn down somebody as good as him." Jamaican Flight was pitted

JIMMY FORTUNE played a key against just two rivals after role in planning the defeat of a the morning withdrawal of Candie Smile.

But he appeared to face a tough task against the Henry Cecil-trained Grimshaw, who was reckoned to have 18lb in hand by raceday sponsors Timeform. Grimshaw attracted

At Lingfield, Marcus Tregoning saddled his first winner for his old boss, Dick Hern. The Thruster, bred by Hern and his wife Sheilah and still partowned by the Major, proved far too good for his opponents in the Whisky & Soda Handicap. "That's my first winner for Dick. Let's hope we can get a few more for him," Tregoning

6

.40	HEINEKEN CLASSIC STAKES (CLASS C) £7,250 added 2YO 5f Penalty Value £4,509
21524	SNUP CRACKER IZTI (D) (1 Miler) M Quen 8 13
12026	SMAP CRACKER (27) (D) (I Miler) M Ourn 6 13
	AMOUNT PARTY AND UTE COMMENT COMMENT I DOWN S TO

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Step Cracker: Hee won Sandown molden and novice stales at Leicester and Chester, at over St. Deceme efforts lest two starts, but below form only nor on fast ground Devoc Coast: Won maden in Sweden in May, Fairly useful Sf form here, close second in conditions stales are Windoor and novice stales (firm) at Folkesome Almost Ambert S70,000 My by Mt Livermons Co-devourite, made most to win 15-numer meiden at Salebury (St, good to firm). Probably has the most scope for improvement Angle Baby: Speedy Bly, winner of maiden at Redder and novice auction events on lest ground at Nothingham and Hamilton. Can probably be longhen lettert un at Chester Be in Love Week in betting at Windoor, beating two rivals in total. Has to improve Polity Millist. Won Si seller at Windoor in June. Hes not improved much on that.

VERDICT: This should rest between ALMOST AMBER and Angle Baby. The Jack Berry-trained Angle Baby has plenty of form that gives her a leading cleance, but John Goeden's twice-record Almost Amber is much less exposed.

5 10 TOTE TRIFECTA HANDICAP (CLASS D) £10,000 added

Ľ		1 m 3f 106yds Penatty Value £7,375
1	DD-644	PRICHENCHA (FR) (13) (T J Wels) D Monts 4 10 0
2	000/84	KADAMANN (10) (D) (Sr Enc Patier) Mrs A Penett 8 g 10
3	D1221)	NICHT CITY 220 (D) (Noel Shelds) K Burles 7 U.S
4	40251	ABSOLUTE LITOPIA RUSA) (7) (M T Limitencia) N Berry 5 0 4 (90x)
5	4-4563	FESRIG SPRINY (86) (Excrs of the bia JT Heritage) C Horgan 792
8	133202	SOFT TOUCH (10) Dand The Geo Partnership Miss G Kelleway 3 8 13 S Drowne 8
7	4-3013	ISABIPLIA GONZAGA (11) (John & Watton) R Contel 4 8 10 D Holland 7
8	421306	BILLADDIE (26) (Richard J Gurr) R Flower 588
9	414000	LA CHATELAINE (14) (Blake Wales S Laycock) Mes B Sanders 4 7 10 Mi Henry 2 V
		- 9 deciented -

Minimum weight: 7st †00b. Due handloop weights: La Chateleiro 7st 6lb. BETTING: 4-1 Hight City, 9-2 Inshells Goranga, 5-1 Absolute Utopin, 5-1 Rieling Spray, Soft Touch 7-1 Pinchingh, 16-1 Billeddis, 1:5-1 Calvers 1997; Bold Busier 4 6 2 M Hille 8-1 () Balding) drawn (5) 15 ran

Pinchincher. Progressed well in 1997, wirming three times at around trick! Looks held, however, on the 1998 form and hes been below best all 4 previous efforts at time! Knatumers. May lightly reced nowedays, these shown ability in two handicape time term, but not enough to suggest he is about to win at this mark. Night Cally: Won a 18-runner hendicap at Hernition in Merch and has also won three times the best provided in the provid absolute Uniquie. Plat by at their in 8-runner Kempton handicap (so to the provid absolute Uniquie Plat by at their in 8-runner Kempton handicap (so to their on the season of their order of the provided to the provided their party. Now back on less writing mark, as on that two starts, on bases that of 11 to Moon Colony at Newmarket (Intit, good). One for the short-set Sort Touch: Won market one their writing mark, as on the street and not start that of 11 to Moon Colony at Newmarket (Intit, good). One for the short-set Sort Touch: Won market on the triprition (Int. firm) in May. Unrecod so far over timet, but was second of 8 to Vola Via (Kastumern 4th) over timet at the mark here less time is stored. Her provide on soft over you beyond anot, but all this mark here less time less time. Ban poorly on soft or you beyond anot, but about to well suited by it Ettington (Int. firm) in Judged on recent efforts.

La Cartelalainer Won at Episcan (writt good) in Jurie but has not reproduced that icm. 4b out of the heuriscap here, which also markes this look a stiff lask.

VERIDICET. Associating UTOPIA was impressive lest week, and is a confident choice. FORM GUIDE

VERDICT: ABSOLUTE UTOPIA was impressive last week and is a confident choice to dely a penelty. The calef danger is Righing Spray, potentially well braded and a lively winner before long, while traiballs Goszage is interesting stepped up in trip.

FORM GUIDE Latch Littler: No immediate promise when 15 langue amenut of 8 to Light The Rocket at Sandown (5). Set a stiff task at the weights (Incolamback Neither Subsequent winners betind when eighth of 20 to Alegria at Windsor and again showed promise when, weekened 25 cut. 12 langue 11th of 17 to Circle of Gold at Newbury (8). Down considerably in class and worth a chack in betting Poleste Steped on when 5 langues with of 8 to Monocha Che Men at Wohenhampion (8) but unit plainty class on last so far and plainty to find Any fillioner Phalpectable effort in nursery betwee 11/s langue second of 8 to Ginds Spinite at Cheption (7). Weighted with good chance and should be suited by shorter into Komat: Beat effort when hine langues this to Monocha at Cheptiow (5). Disappointing at Herniton since and officials to facely off the most on to Chacke at Bash 85/8). Disappointing at themition since and officials to facely off the most on to Chacke at Bash 85/8). Disappointing at themition since and officials to facely off the most on the langues accord to Chacke at Bash 85/8). Disappointing at the since the plant of the since th Names case, and years may be again to be when a Chipowo pit, Lestpowing at Hembion elines and difficult to fancy off the mark. Paley Stones Bright chance at weights on 4 langths sound to Crackle of Balls (\$7/4), Out of hir depth when 251 of 20 to Res Shalling & Locaster Etj and worth considering Severeley Montely: Going downfill rapidly enice 1½ length second to Courseam in Porticities of Injuriory. Well weighted on best form but life response to blinkers last time Response to blinkers last time Response to blinkers last time Phalicity Bally Severely Montely on Porticities from but viscost first time hero Phalicit Park; West in the impriet when 12 lengths fourth of a Drides Apartici or Toffessione (\$1) debut. Probably capable of bester and on handy mark. One to note in besting 5 40 MURPHYS IRISH STOUT HANDICAP (CLASS E) £3,750

Ŀ	5.4 <u>(</u>	added 7f (AW) Penalty Value £3,261
٦	0-2300	BEST CAUEST (83) (Exers of the late Mr Herbert Allen) J Gosden 3 10 0
2	000000	ROCK TO THE TOP (21) (Mrs Christina Dowland) J Sheehan 4 10 0 A Clark
8	335300	SARIA MOON CLASSIC (28) (Highgrow Developments) K McAulite 3 9 13 Danis O'Nelli 1
4	-00000	V P CHARLE (51) (C) (Andy Taylor) J Janlans 4 9 13 5 Sandars
5		SMEPLY SUPER (14) (C.E. Britain) C. Britain 3 9 13
8	011190	FRANCICE FAIR (21) (III) (Los Bates (Bloodsnock) Ltd) G L Moore 3 9 G C Parties
7		RAINEOW RAIN (USA) (6) (P McCarthy) S Dow 4 9 8
8		TRUENTAL (30) (Sunny Yerr) R Armstrong 3 8 7 R Price 10
ŏ		HATLAASH (7) (C) (R Howard Thomas) D Hayon Jones 8 9 7
		JACK RUBY (12) (Ellis Stud Pertnership) P Gilligran 3 0 4 Paul Eddery 14
*	DESER	ENCHANTING EVE (58) (CD) (Newmorker Connections Ltd) C Alien 4 8 to Martin Dayer
		LAMORNA (140 (D) (W H Porsonor) D Arbutros 4 8 TC
G	054-0	CASA ROSA (14) (Graham McCourt) G McCourt 389
		JUSTINGARIS (21) (C) (Excrs of the late Mr M R Pascell) J Bridger 6 85 G Bardwell 1
15	0000000	FALICENBERG (PR) (2) (J Sollar) 8 Pearce 3 8 1 F Nonton 8
ъ	50 0HD	ATTARIGH (15) (T P Hillert) Mrs A King 5 7 13 A Daly (3) 1

BETTING: 4-1 Intilizath, 11-2 Frankte Feir, 13-2 Best Curest, 8-1 Rahibow Rain, Larsonna, Justini-atus, 10-1 Simply Super, 14-1 others 1897, Bogen 3 & 13 M Roberts 14-1 (Lord Huntengdon) drawn (14) 15 ran

FORM GUIDE

Best Quest: Placed twice over this trip, here at Lingfield (all-weather) and at Salisbury, but among the backmarkens last two starts.
Rock To The Top: Second of 8 off this mark here (6), all-weather) and at Salisbury, but among the backmarkens last two starts.
Seva Moon Classic: Another with fair all-weather form last writer. Reproduced it in 61 melatric first two starts back on ant but disappointing on last two.
VIP Chariter Winner hylor on all-weather, but that was back in February \$97. Has deteriorated markedly on but over the last its mariths and is hard to fancy.
Strapply Super: In firms in two handicaps (fin. 98) this summer and has chances on that lorn. First by on all-weather, Last or i8 on only previous by in binkers.
Frankler Fair: Made in root for has trick over 78 m this earner and good third perultimate start. Showed ability at Southwell last July and this is first run since on sand Rainbow Rains in winner last Julie but inconsistent since.
You was last in the firms at the but his part of the last trip in an extending and the same and was last of 13 on handicap debut (8b lower here) last time indicated: Had planty of equitract from here in 1997. Below 1997 form this season but has still made the firame time times on surt. One to consider Jack Ruby: Form the year only on fibrasind (this is his first run on equitrack) and has made firame in time handicape at 61/m. Well below form in claimer lasest start Enchancing Sive: Winner at 71 and 111 on 111 all-weather track in 1997. Down 151b in the weights the year following some poor efforts, last of 18 on latest.

Lamorner, Rather inconsistent filly, (5b lower than the when writing 12-runner race at Folkestone (71, firm) in August. Malong all-weather and a disastified stalker Justifianuse Has plenty of form on its tack. Won over 61 at Brighton in April and has not entire there and at Whiteson since Start Since 1. FORM GUIDE

Case House Hes anown only a size eceny in seems and a classification states Justification this plenty of form on this track. Who over 6 at 8 finglifors in April and has non-enumber of creditable races there and at Wholsor since Staye 7/ Fellowbergs Poor performer. Overall record is unhapping. Adsurtid: Still a median at the age of the, not one to rety on. This is the first time con-nections have resorted to all-weather and he runs off his lowest handicap mark.

nections never resortion to as-results, and its runs on this arress has about their VERDICE; intensity here is change but preference is for FRANNOE FAIR, who has shown some appetite for success this season which makes her a rarity in this field.

CARLISLE HYPERION

1 100035 RAPPLSIVE ARI (15) (CD) E Waymes 8 0 8 ... J Fortuns 12 1 44260 SARRESSEO (146) (D) C Fertures 4 9 0 ... J Familing 1 0,000 EQUERRY (16) (D) Mode 7 0 0 ... J Wasew 13 4 00000 HSLLRGKI (16) M Mulmeaus 48 0 ... A McCartley (3) 18 25450 MULUFA (7) (D) F Richards 48 0 ... A McCartley (3) 18 3350 MCFH EXPRESS (1/25) M Tochurier 4 0 0 ... J Carrell 7 8 3350 MCFH EXPRESS (1/25) M Tochurier 4 0 0 ... J Carrell 7 8 0530 ABOVE SCANO (7) J Freson 3 8 9 ... J McCartle 5 05400 CHARLES BRIDE (9) J TONET 3 8 9 ... J Freson 8 8 0 4500 SARRE BITT (4) M Tochurier 3 8 9 ... J Freson 8 8 16 53400 THELONGUS (20) J G Stryth-Ostourns 3 8 9 ... R Portison 14 2 4500 CARROSA (11) J Recieral 3 8 8 ... J M Freson 18 2 2-123 PPS ADDITION (200) (1) SEP J Gover 3 6 8 ... M Supple 4 4 04045 PRESSAM (PRINCESS (7) J Outra 3 6 6 ... A Cultums 3 5 040000 TURF MOOR (6) E ABOVE 3 8 ... Melatic Worden (7) 19 15 Goodered ... Melatic Worden (7) 19 15 Goodered ... Stockerd ... Problems 4 18 ETTING: 4-1 Berristo, 1-4 Berristo, 1-4 Berristo, 1-4 Olivers FOR M VER DICT 2.20 Astonished 2.50 Theolonius 3.20 Camparl 3.50 Cromer Pler 4.20 Rum Lad 4.50 Spartan Royale GOING: Good to Soft (Soft in places) GOING: Good to Soft (Soft in places)
STALLS: Intil - outside: remember - Imade
DRAW ADVANTAGE: High best up to a mile.
Eligint-hand, undulating course.
Course a on southern outsit-it's of form, 4m W of junction 42
of M6. Bus service from Guitele station 2m. ADMISSION: Outside Course in the course of the Cours

non 15-34 (441%), J Berry 15-117 (128%), M Johnston 14-79 (177%). III LEADING JOCKEYS: K Derley 25-133 (188%), J Fortune 19-ELADING JOCKETS: 10 baney 2-13 (1824), a Forming 19-12 (15%), K Fallon 18-76 (21%), a Wasery 14-83 (165%), ELFAVOURITES: 13-322 (34%), ELDING DISTANCE RUNNER: Tong Road (220) sert 339 miles BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Charites Bride (250), Gromer Pler (350), Cultured King (450), Documeton Boyo (visored, 450). FORM VERDICT Question marks over 8 lot of these and this looks a fair opportunity for THELONIUS to make the locency from Toweester worthwise. He is proven under lodey's con-ditions and his current handcap rating of 65 is the mus-imum for this event. Premium Princess, who had Palo Stanco and Mujova bening in a similar event at Leices-

2.20 SNOW GOOSE MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (F) \$3,500 2YO ST MAIDEN STAKES (F) E3,500 2YU 5T

000 ALLRIGHTHEN (12 T Was 9 0 ... L Chemock 1
3 ASTONISHED (19) Mrs J Ramsden 9 0 ... J Fortune 7
FEARSY CROSS J Berhall 9 0 ... J Wesser 3
0322 GOLDEN BEFF (#) Espine 9 0 ... I Ruppin 10
5300 HAYSTACKS (27) D Mohat 9 0 ... Durrem Mething (5) 12
5 LITTLE CHAMMON (16) J L Eyre 9 0 ... K Palen 8
330 LIJCKY COVE (48) B Machating 9 0 ... M Richardson 13
05 PANDLOUGE (117) A Fairly 9 0 ... M Richardson 13
05 PANDLOUGE (117) A Fairly 9 0 ... M Richardson 13
05 PANDLOUGE (117) A Fairly 9 0 ... M Richardson 13
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06 PANDLOUGE (117) A Fairly 9 0 ... M Richardson 13
06 PANDLOUGE (117) A Fairly 9 0 ... M Richardson 13
07 DAINNING (19) M LOTISTON 9 ... M Richardson 13
08 MINING (19) M LOTISTON 9 ... M RICHARD 14
09 MINING (19) M LOTISTON 9 ... M STATE 14
30 ORBEL STAR (131) P Georg 8 8 ... J F Egan 14 ter last week may prove his main rival. 3.20 TOMMY SMYTH 40TH BIRTHDAY HAND-ICAP (E) £4,000 filles & mares 1m

50-36 SHETTERS (80) C Thomford 58 12 Dearn increasion of GREAT MCLIL (19) (C) A James 3 8 11 J. F. Egam 16 CESTE DARICHIG EN (16) (C) (D) T Sesterby 3 8 9 J. Forum 8 CESTE DARICHIG EN (16) (C) (D) T Sesterby 3 8 9 J. Forum 8 CESTS RALLS O'NONESS (S) (D) (87) E Aston 4 8 7 J. W Seppile 17 + 5300 HOLY SMOVE (21) (D) (87) E L Eye 3 8 8 J. McAuliny (7) 7 CHINAL HOLLOWAY MELIONY (12) (D) 8 McMarton 5 8 4 J. K. Darby 13 CHINAL HOLLOWAY MELIONY (12) (D) 8 McMarton 5 8 4 J. K. Darby 13 CHINAL HOLLOWAY MELIONY (12) (D) 8 McMarton 5 8 4 J. K. Darby 13 CHINAL HOLLOWAY MELIONY (12) (D) 8 McMarton 5 8 4 J. K. Darby 13 CHINAL HOLLOWAY MELIONY (12) (D) 8 McMarton 5 8 4 J. K. Darby 13 CHINAL HOLLOWAY MELIONY (12) (D) 8 McMarton 5 8 4 J. K. Darby 13 CHINAL HOLLOWAY MELIONY (12) (D) 8 McMarton 5 8 4 J. K. Darby 13 CHINAL HOLLOWAY MELIONY (13) (D) 8 McMarton 5 8 4 J. K. Darby 13 CHINAL HOLLOWAY (13) (D) 12 CHINAL HOLLOWAY (13) (D) 12 CHINAL HOLLOWAY (13) (D) 12 CHINAL HOLLOWAY (13) (D) 13 CHINAL HOLLOWAY (13) (D) (13) (D) (13) (D) (13) (D) (

11 37H64 HOLLOWAY MELODY (12) (D) 8 Mediatron 5 8 4 LX Barley 13 2 DOSED KOMILUCKY (12) K Ryan 8 83 ... B Synce (7) 3 0 560000 PRINCESS OF HEARTS (59)(0) U Ryan 4 83 ... P McCale 18 8 14 DO40- SPECIAL (190) (D) J Illiner 6 8 1 ... A McCarriny (5) 14 5 30500 SPECIAL (190) (D) J Illiner 6 8 1 ... J Farming 1 15 05346 PRIOLETTE (19) J Rocend 3 7 G ... L Charmock 18 17 00402 SNOWY MARTILE (89) (D) J Betrel 5 7 13 ... Lawrench 16 18 00000 MPS MEDILE (9) O'Caphian 3 7 70 ... IN Kassardy 11 ... 16 declared - BETTRAC. 6-1 Cucens Censul, 7-1 Dancing Ens, Holy Shoka, 8-1 Merathon Mark, Kominchy, 19-1 Bell Dance, Snowy Martile, 12-1 others FORM VEROICT

All eyes will be on Astoniahed after a hugely encouraging debut at Thirst. where he was in front of a backward-looking Little Clinemmon, but the promise of that run will presumably be reflected in his price. GGLDEN BIFF is suggested as an alternative, given that he goes on soft going and is stightly better tharm.

VEHD/CT: A competitive claimer, hony's Promise has obvious chances on several of her past performances while test week's second place at the Ebor meeting from Morning Cherus (laso the number with less experience here) catches the eye, At the other end of the weights, ROBSER RED and Dismond Gesser are dropped in class. Robber Red any hold tever possibilities for improvement, but has already shown form which is good enough to win o race such as this. 2.50 CFM RADIO CLASSIFIED STAKES (F) £3,000 added 7f

FORM VERDICT QUEENS CONSUL remains potentially well handi-capped despite a weights rise for her narrow Haydock defeat and she may be able to overcome her low draw.Dancing Em is improving rapidly and must be feared, as must worth The Effort in case she can be 3.50 PETER BARLOW STUDIOS CLAIMING STAKES (F) \$23,000 added 1m 4f

00'222 TEN PAST SIX (14) (BP) M Water 89 12 ______ Carroll 8 V

This is likely to concern only Ten Past Six, Cremer Pler and GOLDEN THUNDERSOLT, with the vote going to the last-named who has been in good form this season and seems well suited by today's trip nowadays.

4.20 ALTRO FLOORS PENNINE HANDICAP (D) £5,000 added 5f

- 18 declared - Measure weight: 7et 10b. True handless weight: St. Spenisht 7et 10b. True handless weight: Superisht 7et 10b. St. Spenisht Stephen 1. Carobrian. Carono, Superisht, 10-1 Semmer, Sue Me, Just Testing, Royal Donn, 12-1 others

FORM VERDICT Plenty of these have claims on bits of form, but today's draw favours YOUNG 810WIG who has kept his form well since winning at Hamilton in June and will handla today's conditions. The booking of Kleren Fallon for Cum-brian Caruso suggests a prominent showing can be expected from Tim Easterby's Syo atthough a higher draw

4.50 STAGECOACH CUMBERLAND MAIDEN HANDICAP (F) £3,000 2m 1f 52yds

5 000020 CULTURED KRIG (14) M W Easterby 3 8 9 T Lices 14 B 0 0700 SUJUD (159) M Pell 8 8 6... K Hodgeom 9 7 49250 7143NGS KETTH (40) J J ONINT 3 6 5 ... R Lappin 2 B 3 0300V FLAMING MERACLE (1103) G Barnet 8 8 5... P McCabe 7 B 9 5063 COUNT DE MONEY (12) A Jerus 3 8 5 ... J F Egan 8 0 -0344 KICKONSEN (16) K Fiyar 4 8 4 ... J Curnel 11 14 0060V DORRISTON BOYO (18) T Wall 8 7 ft ... T Williams 13 V 2 04634 BUFL ESQUE (15) J Behrel 4 7 ft ... Dearth Montel (3) 8 13 0564 CRANSON OFARCUR (341) M Farmond 4 7 ft D. Date (8050n 12 14 50000 KARADENI (12) R Hoffretred 4 7 ft D. ... P M Quant (7) 4 50000 KARADENI (12) R Hoffretred 4 7 ft D. ... P M Quant (7) 4 Minimum weight: 7st 100. The handson misches: Charson G'Amour 8 Ame-

deni 7st 7to BETTING: 7-2 Cathadral Belle, 4-1 Burlesque, 6-1 Klohomeum, 8-1 Spar-tan Royale, Culturad King, Count de Noney, 12-1 Free, Thanks Kelth, 14-

FORM VERDICT

An abysmal finals, featuring paceless plodders in slow conditions, and not a race worth hanging around for. COUNT OF MONEY, who has not many miles on the clock and ran his best race upped to triff at Southwell last time, is the suggestion for the belaholics.

Cartmel will hold as inspection at 9am today to determine whether racing can go ahead at the Cumbrian track tomorrow. Fixtures are also set to take place there on Saturday and Bank Holiday Mooday. "Wc got a further half-inch of raio today, following oo from the considerable amount that has fallen in the last six weeks." Charles Barnett, clerk of the course, said

O € 9 €



Rusedski prepared for twist of fate

Rigorous examination of form and fitness awaits Britain's No 1 tennis player at US Open. By John Roberts

OLLIE KAYE, of Puddington, Wirral, will today discover that he is the owner of the shirt Greg Rusedski wore for the men's singles final at last year's United States Open, autographed, framed, and complete with the black ribbon in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Olly's success is down to the luck of the draw, although he did have to qualify by answering correctly the following question set by Ace magazine (Rusedski is the "coaching editor"): Before Rusedski, who was the last British man to reach the final of a Grand Slam singles event, John Lloyd, Fred Perry

or Bunny Austin?* Tricky enough, but not as difficult as the questions to which Rusedski's fitness and form are likely to be subjected on the left-hander's return to the scene of his most impressive performance, Flushing Meadows, New York, for this year's US Open, which starts next Monday.

Seeded No 6 yesterday in accordance with his world ranking. Rusedski has to defend 653 computer points gained during his advance to last year's final, in which he was defeated by Australia's Pat Rafter, 6-3, 6-2, 4-6, 7-5. Within days of leaving New York, Rusedski became the first Briton to break into the men's top 10 since the ATP Tour rankings began in 1973.

All year those points have served as a warning as well as an inspiration for Rusedski. whose ranking would slide should he lose in the early rounds at Flushing Meadows. And more than the ambition of an individual is in the balance. A buoyant Rusedski is essential to the nation's cause in the endeavour to rejoin the élite 16 in the World Group of the Davis Cup next year by defeating India in a promotion play-off at Nottingham less than two

Rusedski's season literally took a turn for the worse in June when he twisted his left ankle during the Stella Artois Championships, partially tearing a ligament. The injury ruined his prospects of success at help, but it's the player at the Wimbledon. Although Rusedski end of the day." While this decided to play, he was unable to complete a first-round match, Moreover, the British No 1's secretive behaviour follow-

weeks after the US Open.

ing the injury caused a rift with his coach, Tony Pickard, who ended their association. The irony of this was that Rusedski parted from his previous coach, the Californian Brian Teacher, immediately after last year's US Open, having astonished many observers with the improvement in his groundstrokes, particularly the backhand, and his return of



Black ribbon, blue riband: Greg Rusedski unleashes a backhand during his defeat by Pat Rafter at Flushing Meadow last year

1 Martina Hingis

3 Jana Novotna

5 Venus Williams.

6 Monica Seles .

8 Steffi Graf ...

9 Irina Spirlea

10 Nathalle Yauzlat.

11 Patty Schnyder

12 Mary Pierce

13 Amanda Coetzer

15 Anna Kournikova

2 Lindsay Davenport

US OPEN SEEDS

.(Cz Rep)

When asked at Wimbledon if he had any thoughts concerning a replacement for Pickard. Rusedski said he was not worried about it: "The coach can might have been construed as a slight, it was a statement of fact. Most players would acknowledge that, even those

Tim Henman, the British No 2, has made similar comments with regard to his coach, David Felgate: "David helps me, but I do the winning and also I do the losing." Henman, defeated in the Wimbledon semi-finals by Pete Sampras, the maestro, spent last week in the top 10 for the first time before dropping to No 13 on Monday, in spite of 16 Albert Costa

with a less positive attitude

than Rusedski.

reaching the quarter-finals in Sven Groeneveld, a Dutchman New Haven, Henman is seeded who is based in Knightsbridge. No 13 for the US Open. Rusedski's latest helper is

Pete Sampras.

3 Patrick Rafter ...

4 Petr Korda

7 Alex Corretja.

9 Karol Kucera ...

10 Carlos Moya.

13 Tim Henman .

14 Goran Ivanisevic

15 Alberto Berasategui

5 Richard Kraficek

6 Greg Rusedski ...

8 Andre Agassi

11 Yevgeny Kafelnikov ..

12 Jonas Bjorkman

2 Marcelo Rios

who is based in Knightsbridge. Groeneveld came to prominence as a coach while working

4 Arantoa Sanchez Vicario ..(Sp 7 Conchita Martinez.... 14 Dominique van Roost.

Agassi in the final). "The ankle is fine," Rusedski

at the Nick Bollettieri Tennis Sweden's Magnus Norman in Academy in Florida. Best known for guiding Mary Pierce towards the 1995 Australian Open title, Groeneveld has also been employed by Michael Stich, the 1991 Wimbledon champion, and Mary Joe Fernandez. The Dutchman spent a year in charge of the Swiss Tennis Federation's "élite round.

squad" of young players. Almost two months after his Wimbledon disappointment, Rusedski returned to the courts in promising fashion last week in Indianapolis, defeating Sweden's Magnus Larsson en route to the quarter-finals, where he lost to Alex Corretja (the Spaniard went on to beat Andre

said on Monday after defeating 1977 Australian Open.

the opening round of the Hamlet Cup at Long Island, "There was a big improvement from last week. My volley is better and I have changed my footwork a little. I need as many matches as possible," he added while preparing to play the Brazilian Fernando Meligeni, ranked No 48, in the second

Rusedski and Henman are both due to mark their birthdays on 6 September, the middle Sunday at the US Open. Rusedski will be 25, Henman 24. Both would wish to celebrate by staying on course for the final weekend. Like Ollie Kaye, they need the luck of the draw.

* John Lloyd was the runner-up to Vitas Gerulaitis at the

Moya able to find his feet away from clay

THE THIRD seed and defending champion, Carlos Moya of Spain, ended a four-match losing streak with a 7-5, 6-3 victory over New Zealand's Brett Steven in the opening-round of the Hamlet Cup at Jericho, New York. The reigning French Open champiorhas won only six of 16 matches on hard courts this year, but looked to find some of his lost form.

Moya, who celebrates his 22nd birthday tomorrow, lost to Thomas Johansson in the second round at Indianapolis last week. After the defeat, he decided to ask for a wild card and defend his title. The Russian, Yevgeny Kafelnikov, who won the event in 1994 and 1995. had originally been the fifth seed but pulled out of the tournament citing "physical exhaustion."

Russia's Anna Kournikova beat Barbara Schett of Austria 6-3, 6-2 in the first round of the Pilot Pen International at New Haven, Connecticut. Kournikova, ranked No 14 in the world, broke the serve of Schett six times in eight games. The 17year old also showed some versatility, winning with strong cross-court forehands, deft drop shots and a serve that touched 109mph,

Amanda Coetzer, of South Africa, lost a 3-0 lead after two quick breaks in the first set against Magui Serna of Spain, but held on to win 7-6. 6-3. Coetzer hit a series of backhand winners, but also was helped by Serna's mistakes, "I think she really gave me a couple." said Coetzer, who won the tie-break after falling behind 4-1.

Mary Joe Fernandez won 11 consecutive games en route to a 3-6, 6-0, 6-1 victory over eighth-seeded Dominique Van Roost of Belgium, "It was a match where I knew I had to hang in there and 6ght hard," said Fernandez, who has been recovering after having wrist surgery in December.

Van Roost said: "What can you do when you play somebody like that who doesn't give you

WORCESTER

HYPERION 2.00 Lucky Ganesha 2.30 Brush With Fame

3,00 Polden Pride 3.30 Navarre Samson 4.00 Reinhardt 4.30 Murberry 5.00 Maldrum Park Left-hand course, level with long straights, easy turns and a

one lurlong run-in.

Course is on the A443 by the River Severn. Worcester (Foregate St) station Im. ADMISSION: Members 2'3; Tattersalis 2'0; Course 2550 (OAPs 22.75). CAR PARK: Free; picnic area park-

Course 1550 (CAPS 12.75). CAR PARIC Prior, plant than pairing 13.

III LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 51-161 (31.7%), O Nicholson 29-77 (36.4%), G Balding 17-78 (21.9%), P Hobbs 17-114 (14.9%), E LEADING JOCKEYS: R Dunwoody 29-153 (19%), C Liewellyn 26-151 (17.2%), R Johnson 19-136 (14%), N Williamson 17-103 (16.5%).

IF AVOURITES: 247-646 (38.2%), BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Quibbling (visored, 2.30), Captain Khedive (3.00), Road To Au Bon (4.30).

2.00	NEWLAND MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,500 added 2m
1 3 0	FESTIVAL (FR) (524) A P Jones 5 tl 5
2 U006-0	
3 Z21P2/	MAGNUM EXPRESS (507) G Balding 9 11 5
4 P/F-24	TRANSPORM (25) J J ONDE 6 11 5
5 P22	GAJAN (32) 8 Lienelyn 4 11 2 Miss E J Jones
0	GROUCHO (USA) (F6) N Babbage 4 11 2
7 045-55	HEVER GOLF CHAPINER (15) C Mortock 4 11 2 Mr N Roseller (7)
6	CRAFTBOOK PAY LODE (F13) J M Bradley 5 TI O.R Johnson
9 20B0P-	DAISY (90) R Boles 5 11 0
10 0000-	LISCANNOR BAY (113) J Muline 5 11 0
11 DO-6	
12 000P6	SISTER JOH (744) R J Price 6 11 0
13 PU;5-	TYPICAL WOMAN (314) P Hobbs 7 11 0

— 13 declared —

— 13 declared —

BETTRIG: 7-2 Timuryjohn, 11-2 Gajen, 7-1 Magnum Exprése, Chiny, Typical
Women, 8-1 Lucky Gennetha, 16-1 King Of Swing, Groucho, 16-1 others FORM VERDICT

OAJAN may be the answer in this moderate affair, though his placed form is hard to pin down practisely and, as such, he cannot be the most confident of choic-2.30 LEVY BOARD NOVICE HANDICAP

	HURDLE (CLASS F) 52,400 added 3m
	1 00-031 LAAZIM AFOOZ (10) R Philips 5 11 10
- 1	I B AD AD MEADIVA INSTITUTE A JUCIOS II II CAMPARA COMPANIONE
i	A APPEN AND THE PROPERTY AND APPENDENT APP
1	A CC. POWT TELL TOM MILE HANNES BILL
4	5 0536-1 BRUSH WITH FAME (27) P Hobbs 6 11 1 G Sherida (5)
	6 GPG-1 MINNESSAM (16) (CD) G Herri 5 Ti 0
- 1	
1	The second months of the control of
	A DOD OUT INCOMED CONTARE CAST PERCENS STATE OF THE CONTRACT O
	- CALLER OF A PROPERTY OF A PR
	13 APGE 8 PERSISTENCE PAYS (16) W G M INTER TO JULY 197
- 1	
	Minimum weight: 10st. True hand because the Weight: Weight Square Set 17th, Head-
	my North 9st 9b. Possistence Pays 9st 8b.
	my Horth 95/90, Posterior Pays Service. BETTING: 11-4 Brush With Ferne, 7-2 Leazim Afocz, 13-2 Minnisam, 7-1 Gunner Sid, 8-1 Don't Tail Yom, 12-1 Nearly & Line, 14-1 Rockville Pfile.
	1 Gunner Sid, 8-1 Don't laid form, 12-1 Planty A Server 1-

FORM VERDICT An interesting little heat but MtNNISAM looked an improved performer here two weeks ego and has probably achieved more than eny of his rivals. Laszim Afooz looks most interesting of his rivals.

3.00 PEACHLEY HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m 4f 110yds I KHEDINE (1871) (C) N Taiston Davids 10 2 (L.C. Lievadhy) B

	•	0.0	24 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14
1	2	18221-	KING TORUS (110) (D) V Darmal 6 11 2
j	3	J-pP4	POLDEN PRIDE (10) (C) G Batting 10 11 6B CIIII
ı	4	486-6P	POLDEN PRICE (10) (C) G SALE 9 PH
İ	5	512-3	MEYADA GOLD (10) (CD) M Jackson 2 10 0
ı	6	22-64	NEVADA GOLD (10) (CD) M. S. Smith 6 10 0. A Williamon FERWICKS BRUTHER (32) Mrs S Smith 6 10 0. A Williamon
1	7	2 PB3P	CONTERNATION IN A MANAGEMENT
1			7 declared -
1	AS	nenum ut	-7 deciated - eght: 10st. True handicap wagnes: Fernalch's Brother 9st 8tb, Co
ł	lo	DOLLAGE	9st 70

BETTING: 11-4 Captain Khedive, 3-1 Pokish Print, 4-1 Parish wick's Brother, 8-1 Lizzy Refrain, 13-1 Naveda Gold, 20-1 Countertual FORM VERDICT

Prolific winning pointer KING TORUS has further improvement very much on the cards and is the one to beat. On-time useful capitaln Khediva would be a very dangerous rival if the move to hige! Twiston-Davies has arrested last seasons regressive run of form. 3.30 BBC HEREFORD & WORCESTER HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 3YO

	U	RUBAMMA (16) P Waleyn 10 10	.B Powe
	R	UP THE CLARETS (11) JJ ONE 10 10	cGenth (
		MEAFORD MAGIC J Michig 105	7 Ele
		MISS ORPHAN (FR) (F112) M Pipe 10 5	
		NEED SOME SPACE (P12) J M Bradley 10 5 S J	Devack (3
	0	SIENA (GER) (16) Mas K George 10 5	Labour (
		- 10 declared -	
MILL	0:	6-4 Navarre Samson, 3-1 Mins Orphen, 4-1 Glams	bryan, 8-
NAME OF THE	10,	, 14-1 Up The Clarete, 16-1 Always Sharp, 20-1 Monto	ard Megl
			-

FORM VERDICT Martin Pipe excels with ex-French juveniles - Fataliste was e good example last season - and claiming winner MISS ORPHAN looks a likely type on paper. She was racing on the Paris tracks in the spring so her Flat form is probably quite decent.

4.00 SHOULTON CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) 23,000

		GUACC ANT TI
1	4-72IP	JHANY'S CROSS (45) (D) () Baiding 8 Ti 10
2	220P-	SOUTHERN CHEF (237) W G M Turner 4 TI 6 J Power I
3	0602-F	SLEETING (19) J Madde 0 11 5 E Husband
4	32-5FP	PREDEWOOD PICKER (53) (C) R J Price 11 11 4 S Durac
5	38-051	SHOWY PETREL (16) (CO) C Mam 6 TI 4
Õ	PP5-03	KEEP ME IN MIND (10) (D) N Michel 9 11 3 X Aizpun
7		GOLDEN MELODY (F72) 7 Growhead 4 to 2 J Pritchard (7
6		RENHABOT (F7) L Lloyd-James 5 10 12
		THE BOULD VIC (25) Miss M Rowland B 10 12 A Span (5
		ZANGBEAR (396) (D) J M Brackley 6 10 10
		GOLDEN LILY (32) (CD) K Burke 5 10 0
10	#322F	TIEASI (19) M Wildream 6 TO O
-		- 12 declared -
		A Land Company College Barrer 19th Daniel

Minimum weight: 10st. True handlesp weighte: Golden Lily 9st 13tb, Persis serce Pays 9st 11tb. BETTING: 4-1 Secony Petral, 11-2 Golden Lily, 8-1 Knep Me In Mind, 8 1 Jimsny's Cross, Steeting, Ruinhardi, 19-1 Golden Melody, 12-1 othern FORM VERDICT

This is a trappy race for punters and stakes are best kept low. Keep Me In Mind is interesting after a decent effort test time but marginal preference is to progressive course and distance winner GOLDEN LILY.

4.30 CHUBB MASTER PACKAGE NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) \$4,000

IDATOICH CIDE (CIDE) 21(co					
			added 2m 7f 110yds		
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٠	14	38-PFU	TOPPERILLO (35) J McConnectie 9 100		

-14 declared Minimum weight: 10st. Time hendings register. Hosel To Au Bon Set 12th, Profe-wood Golding. Alpha Leather, Mr Mothestor, NBy's Filly & Ropoeralio Set 10th. SETTIM2: 4-1 Winder Breaze, 5-1 Zalboox, 6-1 Murbarry, 7-1 Super Ritchert, 8-1 Vallin Vale, Hylters Chence, Pridawood Golding, 12-1 others FORM VERDICT

Zaitoon has his detractors and it might be worth look ing at VALLIS VALE, who was on the upgrade last seeson and has the scope to do s bit better. Hyltars Chance is also of interest, going straight into a hand-

5.00 WICHENFORD INTERMEDIATE NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 00- CAPTAIN DIGGLES (113) K Bell 0 TI 5 Mr R Fortistal (7)

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Ŕ	2	MELDRUM PARK (34) (BF) F Murphy 5 11 ()
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11		KARENAS LASS Mrs S Smith 4 10 11
-	•	SOLWAY ROSE (114) J J ONell 4 TO 11L Cooper
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13	. 0	TROPWEN (49) T Wall 4 10 11 Mogdard

BETTRAG: 9-4 Ministrum Paris, 3-1 Solvey Hose, 7-2 Standy Eddy, 7-1 Springfield Scally, 10-1 Kerense Laws, 18-1 Junt Jenny, Pride of Cartrall, 25-1 others

FORM VERDICT rs Karenas Lass and, in particular, Steady

Eddy are worth close attention in the market but MEL-DRUM PARK sets a fair standard for them to aspire to

Boardman ready to take on the world

CYCLING

CHRIS BOARDMAN, who has not ridden competitively since crashing out of the Tour de France, will go into today's World Track Championships in Bordeaux bolstered by a new extended contract with French team Credit Agricole.

The 30-year-old has been with the team, formerly known as GAN, since turning professional in 1993 and has agreed a two-year extension to his current deal to take him through to 2000.

Boardman, the holder of the world one-hour record, will contest the pursuit title in Bordeaux. He won the pursuit at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics and was world professional riders. champion in 1994 and 1996.

titles this week, and the first to

Boardman. Shane Kelly hopes to use the

championship to rally the trouhled Australian team with a record-equalling fourth successive kilometre time trial triumphs. Victory in the opening final of the 13-event programme would put him alongside the German Lothar Thoms, who achieved the feat 17 years ago.

Australia's preparations have been undermined by allegations of taxpayers' money being spent on a product called colostrum to boost riders' immunity to illness. The team has also been riven by accusations of sexual harassment and outbreaks of dissent among

An anonymous letter was cir-France are defending six culated to the Australian media accusing their head coach,

he tested will be Philippe Charlie Walsh, of huying a Ermenault, who takes on human growth hormone and selling Australia's track programme to the United States Cycling Federation. His training methods were also questioned, and allegations of sexual harassment made against a member of his staff in a complaint to the Australian Sports

> Commission. It was claimed that colostrum contained a human growth hormone, IGF-1, but the team doctor. Peter Barnes. said it was a dairy product, naturally occurring in food. He said the hormone was only illegal if it was extracted and injected into the bloodstream.

The squad were further unsettled when three riders were ordered to return to Australia's training camp in Germany after first being allowed to train in the United States.

Nicol wakes up from his early nightmare

SQUASH

PETER NICOL, the world No 1 from Scotland, struggled to defeat Amr Shabana of Egypt in four games in the first round of the Hong Kong Open yes-

terday. Nicol lost the first game before adopting a "safety first" stance and advancing 14-15, 15-12 15-12 15-7.

British Open in April before squash shut down for four months, is a notoriously slow starter and always has trouble against fellow left-handers like the unseeded Shabana.

"I dodged a bullet out there," he said. "I find it hard playing against left-handers and had difficulty seeing the ball on that court. It was an absolute nightmare.

"I have been trying to be more aggressive, but I had to play it safe because I could not see the ball properly."

The world champion Rodney Evles, of Australia, seeded fourth, also stuttered at the start before finding his rhythm against the qualifier Nicholas Taylor of England.

Eyles reached the second round with a 15-17, 15-11, 15-11, 15-7 win. Kent's Paul Johnson beat the Welsh champion, David Evans, 15-11, 15-12, 16-17, 15-13 to set up a second-round show-The Scotsman, who won the down with the Scotsman, Martin Heath, while Wales' Alex Gough beat Belgium's Stefan

Casteleyn 15-13, 15-12, 15-5. The sport's most successful player this decade, Pakistan's Jansher Khan, will be bidding for a century of titles when he begins his defence of the title today with a match against his namesake Faheem Khan of Hong Kong.

Jansher, who has won the title a record eight times, will be playing his first tournament since undergoing operations on both knees in April.

ATHLETICS

Sri Lankan officials have confirmed Sri Lankan officials have confirmed that Susanthika Jayasinghe, Asla's leading sprinter who has just been cleared of doping charges, will take part in the Commonwealth Games. Jayasinghe won the silver medal in the women's 200m at last year's world championships in Athens.

BASKETBALL Three members of the Sheffield Sharks squad have been hit by ankle injuries on their first day of official training. Terrell Myers, Ian McKinney and Adrian Anderson all suffered sprains within a more sense.

BOWLS

BOWLS

HARTONAL CHAMPHONSHIPS (Wortching) Pairs, taird reams: A Prew and L.

Gliett (Barbury Borough) be 0 Smith and R Cheater (College Pair, Portsmouth) 29-16. K and G Ashby (Stoke, Coventy) be M Higgins and 0 Williams (Old Colleian, Kent) 18-16, M Foster and SLawer (Camon Downs, Comwell) be A Leach and I Mayne (Accon Bridge, Lancashree 21-15, R Gaskins and 7 Hanger (Chandos Pari, Buckingham) be 0 Waldroth and D Hemming (Bank House Hord, Wortensershire) 20-11, Jule and J Escott (Phymoust CS) be C. New and P Dussian (Cowes Medina) 20-18, M Todd and R Norman (Beccles Consensatives, Suffolk) be 5 Thompson and B Kirk (Kingston, Huns) be W McLustey and E Smith (Derham, Bucks) 25-8, 0 Brown and K Kelly (Lincohn St Glies) be G Vitond and T Taylor (Carisse Courfield) 27-18.

CRICKET

The former South Africa paceman The former South Arrica pacernal fanile de Villiers has proposed the establishment of a fund to pay fines imposed on South African players by International Cricket Council match referees. The suggestion follows criticism of umpiring standards in the recent series between England and South Africa, and Allan Donald's fine from the ICC for questioning the from the ICC for questioning the umpire Mervyn Kitchen's perfor-mance in the fourth Test.

RIBNOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP: Invectors 199 for 5 and 90 for 0; Cornwell 30 for Oard 260 for 7. Cornwell (18 byts) bt Deson (2) by three sticines. Hierford: Hers 298 for 3; Carnbs 25 for 9. Mintch dirense (Hers 298 for 3; Carnbs 5). Jestmonth Northurriberland 179 lor 8 and 124 for 5; Comberland forfeit and 268. Northannoverhand (18) bt Comberland forfeit and 268. Northannoverhand (18) bt Comberland 67 and 147 for 2; Siffolk forfeit and 251 for 7 and 147 for 2; Siffolk forfeit and 251 for 6. Mintch dirense (Suffolk 3, Norfolk 0). Falliand (18) bt Comberland (18) bt Siffolk 19; Bucket (16) bt Unes (5) by six wickness. Leocalmeter: Wales 91; Hereford 93 for 1. Hereford (16) bt Wales (5) by 9 wickless. Leocalmeter: Wales 91; Hereford 93 for 1. Hereford (16) bt Wales (5) by 9 wickless. Leocalmeter: Wales 91; Hereford 93 for 1. Hereford (16) bt Wales (5) by 9 wickless. Leocalmeter: Wales 91; Hereford 93 for 1. Hereford (16) bt Wales (5) by 9 wickless. Leocalmeter: Wales 91; Hereford 93 for 1. Hereford (16) bt Wales (5) by 9 wickless. Leocalmeter: Wales 91; Hereford 93 for 1. Hereford (16) bt Wales (5) by 9 wickless. Leocalmeter: Wales 91; Hereford 93 for 1. Hereford (16) bt Wales (5) by 9 wickless. Leocalmeter: Wales 91; Hereford 93 for 1. Hereford (16) bt Wales (5) by 9 wickless. Leocalmeter: Saffs 59. Section (16) by 90 for 8; Bects 10 for 90
FOOTBALL FOOTBALL

ANON INSURANCE COMBINATION Pirst
Division: Miñvail 1 Bournemouth 2,
USSA CUP preliminary round, econol leg:
Ordul Galzi O Velle 3 (200 0-6).
MONDAY'S LATE RESULTS:
FA CARLING PREPRIENSHIP: Leeds 1
(Hassebaink) Blackburn 0,
FOOTBALL CONFERENCE: Hednesford
3 Hereford 1; Kiddminster 3 Telford 0,
UNBBOND LEAGUE Prantier Divisions
Emily 3 Gainstorough 2; Hyde O Worksop
0. Pirst Division: Ashion Utd 1 Congleton
1: RYMAN LEAGUE Premier Division: St

RYMAN LEAGUE Promier Division: 5t Albars 2 Sutton Utd 2. DR MARYENS LEAGUE Premier Divi-sions Atherstone 3 liteston 3. Southern Divisions: Dartford O St. Leonards 0. Middland Divisions Weston-super-Mare 0 Middland Divisions Weston-super-Mare O Stourbridge O. SCREWFOX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Divisions Keynsham 3 Caine 2. PONTENS LEAGUE Premier Divisions: Sunderland 3 Birmingham 2. First Divisions: Woherhampton 2 Transmer 1. Third Divisions Walsali 1 Rochdale 1. ANON INSTRUMENCE COMMENSATION First Divisions Northempton 2 Oxford Unit 0; Peterborough 2 Warford 0; Reading 2 Barnet 2.

2.
PRESIDEN Newry 3 Manchester Utd XI 4.
PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Vitoria Setubal
1 Sporting Lisbon 1.
MATION WIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE:
Postponed matches (international col.
ups): Mon 31 Aug. Crystal Palace v Resmere Ties 1 Septs. Normich v Bolton, Set stponed matches (international coll-s): Man 31 Aug; Crystal Palace v Tran-tre Tue 1 Sept: Norwich v Bolton, Fri

SPORTING DIGEST

A Sept: Tranmer v Bradford City, Set 5
Sept: Millwell v Man City (Intoying Tue 29
Sept.): Bolton v Port Vale: Wacford v Norwich (Intoying Tue 3)
Sept.): Bolton v Port Vale: Wacford v Norwich (Intoying Tue 29
Sept.):
SMEDEN SCHAD (European Champlouship qualifiler v England, Stockholm, 5 Sept.): Goalfusepers: Hedman (Coventry), Ribbsteet (Lillestrom). Defenders: P Andersson (Borussia Mönchengladbach), Björklund (Valencia), Maamark (Leicester), Lacke (IFK Gochenburg), Mjälthy (Alk Sohna), R Nilsson (Coventry, Bildfreiders/forwardsis), Coventry, Bildfreiders/forwardsis A Andersson (Newcaste), O Andersson (Celic), Ljangberg [Halmstad], Mild (IFK Gotherburg), J Pattersson (Bottosia Mönchengladbach), Schwarz (Velencia), Zeitzerberg (Anderlecht).
ENGLAND UNDER-18 SOLIAD (v Republic of Iraland, Tolica Park, Dabilo, Mild of Breisen, (A Mild W Breiden ENGLAND UNDER-18 SOLIAD (r Republic of braisad, Tolks Park, Dublin, Wed 2 Sept); G Barry (A Vila), W Bridge (Southampton), L Chadesick (Marchester Urd), M Etherlagton (Peterborough), S Garvard (Liverpool), M Ghant (A Vila), F Jeffers (Everton), L King (fottenham), J Milligan (Everton), L King (fottenham), A Oliver (WBA), S Parker (Charton), A Smith (Leeds), S Taylor (Arsend), D Wassell (A Villa), R Wallians (Marchester Utd), J Wioodgate (Leeds), C Woodhouse (Sheffelo Utd), D Wiright (Crewe), S Wiright (Liverpool).

GOLF
LESPGA SPRINT INTERNATIONAL (Castle Rock, Colorado) Lasding Basil scores (last) spits for doors, 47 for eogle, 47 for basile (Fig. 1) for par, minus 1 for basile, 75 for all warsescares), 47 V Singh [17], 415 + 12 + 6 + 14; A1 W Wood [US) +9 +9 +15 +9, P Mickelson (US) +8 +5 +10 +12; 38 7 Woods (US) +14 +3 +14 +7.
US ARRATEUR CHARRENGRISHIP (Castle), 144 Fist roland qualitying, leading scores (US unless scared); 66 H Kuchne 34 34, M Morthey 33 35, T Ackson 35 33, J Hibber 34 34, M Voges 35 33, 5 McGinon 32 36, P Carter 32 36; 69 I Golsiner 37 32, R Pineda 36 33, M Muller 34 35, O Eger 36 33, M Munitz 34 35, MSaglio 34 35, D Panicka 36 33, M Lestcow 35 34, M MicCoy 35 34, R Smith 34 35, R Morris 35 34; 70 M M Moore 17 34 36, E Compton 36 34, M M Coy 35 34, R Smith 34 35, R Morris 35 34, 7 MK-1 M Moore 17 34 36, E Compton 36 34, M M Coy 37 37, C Howald 34 36, I Corville 36 34, T Official 33 37, C Howald 34 36, I Corville 36 34, T Official 33 37, M Kuchar 30 34; 71 5 Matthews 35 36, A Hill 36 35, G Rohlf 37

34. J McLean 38 33. M Harris 35 36. J Miller 36 35. J Sommers 30 35. B Manucci 30 35. A McLendon 36 35. G Somier 36 35. R Souza 36 33. J Dufner 36 35. P Schlachter 38 33. A Baddeley (Aus) 38 33. J Spagnolo 34 37. J Pitz 36 35. R Leon 35 36; 72 5 Koch 38 34. J Pitcolosi (Arg) 37 35. J Harris 34 38 R Long 35 37. A Baddeley (Aus) 38 33. J Spagnolo 34 38. C Manus 37 35. C Mumdorf 33 39. J Broce 37 35. O Gilbespie (Can) 34 38. E Flowerdew 36 36. M Kirk 37 35. M Ehlinger 34 38. M Haack 35 37. E Gibssen 38 34. B Modeler 39 33. M Imman 36 36. K Kemp 36 36. 8 Noster 35 37. L Mahan 34 38. 5 Scott 37 35. B Garner 37 35. A Scott 30 36: 73 S Yager 35 38. J Driscotl 38 35. K Maccionald 36 37. R Imada 39 34. O Burpee 37 36. M Reardon 34 39. O C'Callaghan 38 35. P Scaletz 37 36. J Park 39 34. M Henderson 36 37. M Lontstereon 36 37. C Copin 34 39. B Davis 39 34. V Taylor 38 35. J Oh 38 35. W Harvey 34 39. W Lunde 36 37. R Lavote 33 30. J Garrido (Col) 38 35. H Hars 30 37. M lon (Can) 35 34; 74 H Hall 36 38. J Henry 37 37. B Schmeart 28 36. J Sulfikan 34 40. M Hodges 35 38. B Payne 36 37. O Green 33 40. Garrido (Col) 38 35. H Has 30 37. M lon (Can) 35 37; T J Hodge 37 37. A Cultidela 36 38. J Perry 37 37. B Schmeart 28 36. J Sulfikan 34 40. M Dobyro 39 35. J Selv 1 37 37. R A Bulisson 18 36. M Catalano 40 34. A Miller 36 38. J Cerry (Aus) 37 37. O Capp 37 37. A Cultutela 36 38. J Perry 37 37. A Cultutela 36 38. J Perry 37 37. A Cultutela 36 38. J Perry 37 37. A Cultutela 36 38. J Perry 37 37. A Cultutela 36 38. J Perry 37 37. A Cultutela 36 38. J Pare 37 37. G Boyette 37 37. K J Hodge 37 37. O Capp 38 37. J Morntin 39 35. J Selv 1 37 37. B Limbero 37 37. Hough 40 34. A Opperson 39 35. A Points 39 36. J McLuen 37 37. A Cultutela 36 38. J Perry 37 37. Hough 40 34. A Opperson 39 35. A Points 39 36. J McLuen 37 37. A Cultutela 36 38. J Perry 37 37. Hough 40 34. A Opperson 39 35. A Points 39 36. J McLuen 37 37. N Wordies 30 38. J Ruen 37 37. J Hough 37 37. D Opperson 39 35. A Points 39 36. J Perry 39 36. J Senelsberger 38 37. O Capp

HOCKEY

The veteran full back Michael York Will captain a young Australian team in the Commonwealth Games field hockey tournament next month. The 16-man squad is unchanged from The 16-man squad is unchanged from that which won two Tests against Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur last week, susropaan Julkion Natrons Curbinsten A (Perzana) Peol At Scotland 2 Spala 2; Belgium 2 Netherlands 3, Peol Be Poland 2 England 3; Germany 7 Austria O. Div B (Padowa) Peol At Portugal 1 France 6; kaly 3 (Straitar 0, Peol Be Cz Rep 0 ireland 7; Denmark 1 Wales 6. SNOOKER

LIVERPOOL VICTORIA LIK CHAMPION-SHIP (Plymouth Pavillonu) Final qualifying round (Eng unless visuod): J Lardner (Sco) bt i McCulloch 5-4; P Daves (Visi) bt S Pettman 5-1; J Birch bt I Brumby 5-3; E Hernderson (Sco) bt K Burows 5-2; S James bt S Murphy 5-1; G Ponding bt) Fer-puson 5-1; P Malace (Niri) bt M Davies 5-3; L Richardson bt M Judge (Riri) 5-1; O Roe bt 5 Storey 5-1.

SPEEDWAY ELITE LEAGUE: Walvestumpton 40 Coventry PREMIER LEAGUE: Electer 62 Newcastle

SOUASH
CATHAY PACIFIC OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP (Hong Mong) Qualifying finalis: N
Toxior (Engl or A Ricketts (Aus) 15-8 15-5
17-16: R Quitach (SA) by 2 Janan (Pak) 12-15
10-15 15-2 15-2 15-2: A Faziy (Eg) bt 5 Frenz
(Ger) 15-9 12-15 15-0 15-2; D Forskund
(Swe) bt M Fitter (Jans) 15-13 15-7 15-13;
J Williams (Aus) bt M Fitters (Pak) 15-13
15-4 15-5; M Kneipp (Aus) bt 1 Rumorbin (Fin)
15-8 13-15 15-10 15-10; V Sistenen (Fin)
bt M Medhart Morsi (Eg) 15-13 15-17 17-15
15-10: C Rowland (Aus) bt M Zaman (Pak)
15-6 11-15 9-15 15-8 15-8.

TENNIS

ASTP TOUR (Boston) Men's siegles, first round: C Pointe [Fr] bt A Vointe (Rom) [-4 6-0; G Pozzi [tr] b) F Santoro [Fr] 6-2 6-2; K Carlsen (Den) bt J Golmard [Fr] 3-6 6-3 6-4; S Grosican (Fr) bt J van Lottum (Neth) 6-2 6-0; X Mallsse (Bel) bt 5 Campbell (US) 6-3 6-1.

6-3 6-1.

HARLET CUP [New York] Men's singles, first round: F Medgen! [Br] for Racus [F1] 6-7 6-4 6-3: F Clave! [Sp] for L Mor (ist) 6-2 6-1: O Princis! (Ger) for T Hebary (Stock!) 0-6 6-4 6-1: G Rusedski (GB) for M Norman (Swe) 6-3 6-4; Semerink [Neth) for J Aforso (Sp) 4-6 6-1 6-4: M Safin (Rus) for A Berasategus (Sp) 6-3 6-2; C Moya (Sp) for B Sceenink2; 7-5 6-3.

PILOT PER INTERNATIONAL (Conpecticut) Women't singles, first round: A Coctzer [SAt for M Serms (Sp) 7-6 6-3; S Testud (Fr] for R Dragomir (Rom) 6-4 6-1; M-J Fernandez (US) for O Van Roost (Bel) 3-0 6-0 6-1; M Nagyowa (Stock) for M-A Vento (Ven) 6-3 6-2; A Kournikova (Rus) bt B Scheet (Aur) 6-3 6-2; Halard-Decugis (Fr) for N Sawamatsu (Japan) 3-6 6-3 7-5

FOOTBALL

George Graham, the Leeds

And the duo proved an in-

It was the perfect start for

of the Premiership trade from

If the pair manage to click -

and the early signs are eo-

couraging - the writing could be on the wall for defences every-

where as master and pupil lead

"Jimmy's confidence is rubbing off on me," said Wijnhard.

"We're talking a lot to one another before and after the game. He's teaching me and telling me what I must do to im-

"He's showing me a lot of the

little things you need in your

game to play at this level, like

what you have to do when

you're about to receive the ball,

using my body strength more.

what to do because be has the

experience of having played in

the Premiership last season,

and he's passing on that expe-

"I'm learning more and

more as time goes on, so I think

I will improve with every

match. But there's certainly

Wijnhard knows it will take time for the partnership to fully blossom as Hasselbaink didn't start to shine until after Christ-

"It's a new team, oew play-

ers and when we get to know

each other we can start to get

good results," added Wijnhard.

"By the end of the season

things should be much better.

"I saw the impact Jimmy

"Every game he tells me

prove even more.

rience to me.

more to come."

mas last year.

the Holland international.

Stewart beats off challenge

BY DEREK PRINGLE

IF THE England selectors had any lingering doubt about Alec Stewart's captaincy qualities after they appointed him in May, they have long since disappeared. As England pre-pared for their one-off Test against Sri Lanka at the Oval yesterday by sending for another spinner, the England and Wales Cricket Board announced that Stewart had been made captain for both the Ashes campaign as well as next year's World Cup. In short.

cricket's two holy grails. Considering that England began the season with two captains sharing Test and oneday duties, the return to an allembracing role confirms the regard in which Stewart's leadership is now beld, something Adam Hollioake, the one-day captain until recently, has not

"We are all very impressed with how Alec has taken to the job." said the chairman of selectors, David Graveoey, "To begin with we were unsure of his workload, but he has done very well. His appointment to both jobs puts an end to the peculation surrounding the World Cup. and hopefully we

wicketkeeper and top-order batsmen, has had to cope with a trio of demanding roles, was typically upbeat, "Captaining your country," he said, "is the highest honour you can have in the game and I'm enormously grateful to be given the chance to continue in that role.

"T've thoroughly enjoyed both the challenge of leadership and the success we have had this

Shane Warne is recovering more quickly than expected from shoulder surgery and should be fit for the Ashes series, Shaun Graf, the manager of Victoria's state team, said on Tuesday, Graf said he expected the leg-spinner would be back in action by the start of the domestic Sheffield Shield competition in October. 'We're certainly trying to set that as his first game," Graf

summer, and I hope both I and my team-mates can repeat that success in the coming months," There is nothing quite like a Test series victory for making up minds and the appointment by the selection panel was apparently both prompt and unanimous. What did take time, however, was the decision over whether or oot to send him to seemingly resolved, another

during October

The contest, which is being held to raise money for the International Cricket Council's development fund, clashes with England's arrival in Australia. Over the years the Aussies have made enough laughing stocks out of recent England teams without one arriving there captainless.

After much prevarication, not least because the ECB had undertaken to send their strongest possible side, it was decided that it would be better for Stewart to be with his side preparing for the Ashes in Perth.

In other words, England have plumped to send their captain to the Waca, rather than Dacca, arguing, rightly in this instance, that the idiosyncratic conditions - high bouncing pitch and strong wind -needed to be experienced before the second Test there in early December.

It is a delicate situation and one that will no doubt attract criticism from certain quarters of the ICC. At the moment England are skirting the issue by pointing out that 38 players were shortlisted for the World Cup and that they are still some way off knowing what their strongest one-day team is.

However, with one dilemma

Expecting a typical hard bounto choose from, could barely cypitch, the players were incontain their delight. England packed off Alan Mullally and stead confronted with a bare packed off Alan Mull low-bouncing surface. Sri sent for Robert Croft.

hop. Should both spinners play, as now looks likely, Ben Hoi-

Still, as big brother will no



Alec Stewart in contented mood yesterday as he limbers up for the Test match with Sri Lanka rived at the Oval for practice. Lanks, with about six spinners

The state of the pitch has at Old Trafford, will again be the clearly caught England on the man to miss out.

Franks and Bulbeck halt breakneck Pakistan

BY JOHN COLLIS at Taunton

Pakistan Under-19 276; England Under-19 38-0

IT MAY be assumed that stern words were spoken in the Pakistan dressing-room yesterday lunchtime, at which point the visiting batsmen had recovered from 89 for 6 to 122 without further loss. The young Pakistanis were infected with a virus that bas been running

ly, characterised by a total inability to build an innings. It causes the batsman to suffer from a conviction that, since dismissal must be imminent, a bigbatted bolck is the only response to the bowling. But the disease was far less apparent in the afternoon.

Matt Bulbeck, who has come almost from nowhere to regular Somerset first-team cricket in half a season, saw his first three overs go for 33 runs before England, in particular the brisk Essex bowler Jamie

OFF YOUR GAS BILLS

WITH BRITISH GAS

Grove, began to clip away at batting that hore no relation to the four-day status of the match. Bulbeck himself atoned for

his wild start with a trio of wickets, but after lunch he was clearly bowling in some discomfort. Since he has only just returned after rib injury one might wonder to what extent a county rejoices when one of their youngsters is honoured at this level. The players themselves, if fighting to bold a senior place, must regard

feelings, though for those who spent most of their summer in the second XI the advantages are clear Certainly Under-19 cricket is gaining in status under NatWest's sponsorship.

The Pakistan tour got off to a soggy start at Harrogate where the first-day international was abandoned, though not before Essex's Stephen Peters had made 78. Pakistan dominated the second onedayer, but then an undefeated 62 by skipper Owais Shah, of Gronically Pakistan-

born) enabled England to finish the one-day series all square. In the first Test at Worcester, Shah made 96 in the first innings, while the quick Irfan

Fazil, who runs in like Wagar Younis, took six wickets. Although Pakistan had a firstinnings lead, substantial knocks by Kent's Robert Key, Shah and Peters gave England something to bowl at, and the home side brought a 1-0 lead here for the second of three Tests thanks to Northamptonshire's Graeme Swann,

whose off-breaks took 6 for 46. Yesterday Paul Franks, of Nottinghamshire, had the most impressive tally in bowling out Pakistan, while from the Pavilion Bulbeck reported a back strain unrelated to his recent injury. That the visitors were able to bat until tea was due to diligent work for the seventh wicket by Imran Nazir and Shoaib Malik who added 167 in 39 overs. Both enjoyed reprieves, however, and Key will have few easier

Giles Haywood's third ball. Both batsmen perished in

turn, giving Key and Essex's Ian Flanagan a possible 36 overs in fading light. The lefthanded Flanagan clipped Irfan to the point boundary to launch the innings, but when the fourth scoreboard light beamed out at five o'clock, the score on a steady 38, England accepted an invitation to leave the field. A cloudy evening restored British normality to a sometimes breakneck day.

Lights a real turn on

stip chances than the one he

pped when Shoaib snicked

BY JON CULLEY

YORKSHIRE'S RESOUNDING defeat by Lancashire in Monday's floodlit Roses match will not deter David Byas'a team from attempting to do their traditional rivals a buge favour next Sunday.

Despite a hat-trick by Darren Gough as Headingley enjoyed a first taste of day-night cricket, Lancashire won by 101 runs to go four points clear in the AXA League table as Yorkshire were dismissed for just 81 in 25 overs.

Lancashire, finalists in the NatWest Trophy and still in contention for the Championship, have two AXA League matches left but could be pipped to the title by Essex, who have a game in hand.

However, Essex have to go to Scarborough on Sunday and will find Yorkshire determined not to hand them easy points. said. "We need points against

Essex and in our other rewith another floodlit fixture maining games to keep our place in the top nine and so get into the First Division of the new league next season."

This is the last season of cricket's 40-over format, with the AXA League and Benson and Hedges Cup giving way to a two-division National League based on 50-overs matches.

Apart from their encounter with Yorkshire, Essex are due to meet Nottinghamshire at Chelmsford on 6 September before concluding their programme at Leicester on 13 September. Lancashire face Gloncestershire at Old Trafford on 7 September, two days against Nottinghamsbire at Trent Bridge on 9 September. Gough's hat-trick thrilled a Headingley crowd of more than 10,000, and it could signal that

day-night cricket is here to The Yorkshire marketing director, Mark Newton, said: "The response has been fantastic and commercially this is definitely the way forward for

cricket in this country. "We reckon that 50 per cent of the crowd was made up of non-members, compared with 15-20 per cent for a normal AXA League game. And quite a large proportion of those will have been tempted to watch cricket for the first time.

"I can see these games becoming a major part of the calendar, perhaps even with a shorter version of the game lasting just a couple of hours or so to appeal to younger people

made in the Premiership last season. I don't know whether I can achieve something similar, but I certainly bope to make a good impression. "I bad four years in Holland. having beeo schooled at Ajax

> proved. I just bope I can continue that improvement." Graham believes those years with the Dutch giants will stand Wijnhard in good stead for coping with the demands of playing in the Premiershin. "Having been brought up

initially, and every season I im-

there, which I consider to be the proper way, he has a lot of good qualities," said Graham. "He's got a lovely touch, hut he's got to learn the intensity and the fast, furious pace of English football and that will take him a little bit of time."

Notts 'will not ease up

after their NatWest final

against Derbyshire, and finish

ALAN ORMROD, the Notting-hamshire cricket manager, has promised that his struggling side will not ease up during their difficult run-in to the end of the season. The East Midlanders, who lost their last match to County Championship leaders Surrey, still have to play the other three title contenders in the final four weeks of the season - starting with the derby with third-placed Leicestershire at Worksop today.

Their games with Leicestershire, Lancashire - who are second - and fourth-placed Gloucestershire will go a long way towards determining who wins the title, and Ormrod has pledged his team will be no pushovers for anyone.

"We've got to get ourselves sorted and play some good cricket," said Ormrod, whose side are currently 15th. "We've There are no bad sides in the County Championship - it's just a matter of who gets the rub of the green at that particular time. We've got to try and match up with the top boys." Nottinghamshire'a overseas

star Paul Strang will make his farewell appearance before leaving to play for Zimbabwe in the Commonwealth Games. Leicestershire have the at Derby.

chance to make up ground on their title rivals Surrey and Lancashire, who hoth have a week off. Their coach, Jack Birkenshaw, admitted at the start of the mouth that his side. got to keep going to try to get who currently stand third, had into a respectable position. to win their final six games to stand a chance of lifting the crown for the second time in three years. They hope to have their captain, Chris Lewis, back after missing the last three Championship matches with a back injury.

Dominic Cork (on England duty) and Phillip DeFreitas (bruised heel) misa Derbyshire's match against Durham

TODAY'S

NUMBER

The number of days Antonio Oliveira lasted as Real Betis coach. The man who led Porto to a double was sacked because of poor pre-season results.

AXA League

Gloucestershire v Somerset BRISTOL (One Day) Somersel woo loss

M Burns b Bail 7 0 0 10 12
M N Lathwell libw b Dayson 3 0 0 14 14
M E Brescothick not out 18 0 1 32 39
P O Borsler run out 3 0 0 13 12
G O Rose not out 11 0 0 14 25

CRICKET SCOREBOARD Second NatWest Under 19 Test

England v Pakistan TRUNTON (Day 1 of 4): England are trailing Poliston by 238 runs with all first-limities without in hand Pakistan Under 19 won toss PARISTAN - First landings

Inam-ul-Haq b Grove... "Bazid Khan b Franks...... Hasan Raza c Gough b Bulbeck... Faisal Igbai c Gough b Bulbeck... Karan Nazir c Franagan b Swann Historyum Fahrat Ibw b Bulback... Shoalb Malik e Watace b Franks... Zahid Saieed not out

Kashif Raza c Wallace b Franks 8 0 2 8 Total (67.3 overs)

Falls 1-23, 2-44, 3-44, 4-69, 5-88, 6-89, 7-256, 8-260, 9-Page 1-23, 2-44, 3-44, 4-65, 3-65, 3-65, 7-270, 6-244, 3-263, Bonding; J O Grove 13-2-48-2, M P L Bulbeck 15-2-72-3, P J Franks 17-3-4-51-3, G J Swann 18-3-65-2, G R Haywood 3-0-24-0, O A Shah 1-0-8-0.

ENGLAND -- First Inches R W Y Key not out..... ... 26 0 6 74 35

Grove.

Boundag: Irfan Fazil 4-2-12-0. Zahid Saeed 3-0-26-0, Kashir Raza 1-1-0-0.

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Angry Spurs fans eye new 'Double'

IT IS NOT the Double long-suffering Tottenham supporters as likely buyers, were both quick ceed Gerry Francis – an ap-to dismiss suggestions that they pointment which stimmed the had in mind when they implored their long-failing club-to natch Arsenal's success. But in their present predicament they will settle for this double oc-

THE INDEPENDENT

Wednesday 26 August 1998

and of Christian Gross as coach. Followers of the struggling north London side woke yesterday to learn from some reports that Sugar was involved in negotiations to sell his controlling stake. As always, however, things are not quite what they seem and billionaire business man Joe Lewis and media mogul Rupert Murdoch, named

were interested in taking over There seems little doubt

that Sugar will walk out of White Hart Lane if the abuse continues to be as personal currence: the departure of Alan and vicious as he encountered Sugar as owner and chairman from frustrated fans on Saturday following Spurs' second successive three-goal defeat but that will not happen just yet and nor it seems will he be so quick as to end the troubled reign of Gross whose tenure, it has been said, will end with this

weekend's game at Everton. It is more likely that Sugar will give the manager he ap-

football world-a little longer to turn things round before he finally gives up the ghost. On Monday night Gross went to Elland Road to watch Blackburn,

who are Tottenham's opponents in two weeks' time, take on Leeds United, which would be a strange move for a manager who knows he is going to be out of work on Saturday night Yesterday bookmakers re-

fused to lay any more bets on Gross getting the sack. Graham Sharpe from William Hill said: "We have taken a lot of bets of amounts up to £500 on him

Two games into the new season and White Hart

Lane is already embroiled in crisis. By Trevor Havlett

these central characters.

to buy into the club in 1991.

but that disappointment will be

first ball has been kicked and once they lost to Wimbledon on the opening day we started to see many more three figure wagers come in. Now, after the defeat by Sheffield Wednesday, we

have decided to withdraw." Most of the White Hart Lane faithful, who have never really Terry Venables in such unseemly fashion in 1992, will be

current share price is not impressive. Spokesman for both Lewis

emphatically deny any interest yesterday. glad to see the back of both "He is definitely not interested in buying Spurs," said Lewis' representative. "He tele-It will sting Sugar's pride if phoned me himself to say just public pressure forces him out

that. He was bemused by these

softened by a considerable instories." Under existing Premier League rules Lewis, who uses crease on his initial £8m outlay his investment trust ENIC for Likely huy-out figures of his involvement in football, £80m have been mentioned for a publicly quoted organisation would be banned from Spurs

pitch have been transformed by per cent shareholding in the chairman even though the Rangers, a stake worth £40m. As it stands it is not possible for anyone to hold 10 per cent in more than one club belong-

and Murdoch were quick to ing to a league represented on the International Football League Board. However, legal experts believe the legislation would not hold up in court. The Murdoch connection

has arisen out of the recent appointment of Sam Chisholm to the Tottenham board. Chisholm was chief executive and managing director of Murdoch's BSkyB and he also negotiated the original deal between Sky and the Premier League for

Sugar, denied that talks had taken place with either Murdoch or Lewis and added: "I spoke to Alan last night and this morning and there's nothing in these stories at all."

Sugar was seen at the club's training ground in Chigwell again yesterday. Hewer added: "He is very concerned about the team and that's where his focus is at the moment. The club is superb in so many ways but unfortunately it's not so good on the pitch at the moment and that's the frustrating part. Everyone here is dressed up with no party to go to."

Poland's "'clown' is a warning to United

By GUY HODGSON

IF MANCHESTER UNITED favourites do not always prevail, even in Europe where money is heard with increasing clarity, then they got one in Poland yesterday. Big and brooding, the man was the embodiment of

creeping doubts. He looked as imposing as be his frame has filled out - but it was on the mention of his name gression into the Champions' League proper seemed less

a chili through English football It was the goalkeeper infamously christened "a clown" - have finished 5-0 to United by Brian Clough, who did most to defy England at Wembley in 1973, costing Sir Alf Ramsey a place in the World Cup finals and his job as national manager.

As the triumphant underdog personified, surely he could find hope for his former club, LKS Lodz, who have to overturn a 2-0 lead in Poland tonight to stop United joining the league phase of the competition?

Unfortunately for those who attach sentiment to the underdog, no. "The difference between Manchester United and LKS," he said, "is the same as that between Heathrow and Lubliner airport."

As Alex Ferguson's team will have to refuel at Poznan tonight because the runway at Lodz is too small for their plane to take off with a full load, you can appreciate the width Tomaszewski perceives.

"I'm not talking as a Polish patriot but as a realist," he continued. "I don't want to be taken as a Polish idiot and there is no chance of LKS beating them. In the first leg at Old Trafford they were so frightened that even if they had been ordered to go forward they couldn't. Their legs were trem-

A pleasing evaluation for Ferguson, who greeted Tomaszewski as any good Scot would with the words "you did a great job that night", but not

one likely to be having his players running out tonight wrapped in complacency. He knows United should complete required a reminder that the job but that was also the prognosis when they met Galatasaray and Volgograd in recent unsuccessful European

bkely source for the latter

The United manager will probably recall Paul Scholes. suspended.

be from England.

A spindly crowd, little atmosphere, a 2-0 lead and United should progress comfortably. If not, Ferguson will aim far stronger language at his players than "clowns".

"A team with a 2-0 lead from

the first leg in Europe should go through," he said. "If we're sensible, do not make silly misdid 25 years ago - more so as . takes at the back and look to counter-attack we will be okay."

The Poles will also be without their Brazilian, Rodrigo Carbone, who is on a one-man strike over pay, but a more serious loss could be a lack of support. Lodz's capacity has been reduced from 30,000 to 7,000 because of Uefa regulations and those seats are proving hard to sell because prices have doubled. An attendance of 5,000 is anticipated, of whom 1,000 will



Ferguson has Jaap Stam, his that the logic of United's pro- £10m Dutch centre-half fit after

surely as their barber had brandished the razor to leave a squad of Polish skinheads. The Welshman scored a goal and with opponents required to be more adventurous tonight be should have the space to beequally destructive. "The pace of Ryan will trouble anyone," Ferguson said.

a thigh strain, to help eliminate the former while Ryan Giggs, in sound. Jan and Tomaszewski the absence of the ineligible are two words that can still put Dwight Yorke, will be the most

> without flattering them, Giggs scorched the Lodz defence as

In the first leg, which could

having rested him against West Ham on Saturday because he felt the England player was tired after the World Cup, and apart from Stam's return the sion of Phil Neville for his injured brother, Gary. Lodz's Tomasz Cebula, meanwhile, is

Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, prepares to sign copies of his book "Glenn Hoddle: My 1998 World Cup Story" in London yesterday

ning up in wait for his Hoddleness

BY ADAM SZRETER

"GLENN HODDLE Book Signing, 25 August, 1-3pm - Post-poned." It didn't seem the best Fortunately for me and the

way to attract sales, but maybe they were scared of being crushed to death in the rush. few genuine fans, the notices outside Borders Bookshop in Oxford Street, London, were only partially accurate. The post-

nal signing session, scheduled an autograph, so it seemed like for last week and put back pre-sumably in the light of all the bad publicity which surrounded the

By one o'clock a line of a couple of hundred apostles was waiting to be anointed by his Hoddleness, while the paparazzi had already formed an impenetrable ring. "Another 10 minutes" a lackey barked, giving rise to a collective groan, but time flies when you are queuing for

the very next moment when the great man finally appeared. The flash bulbs started popping as extracts serialised by The Sun. the photographers launched

into their feeding frenzy. We'd been told he wouldn't be answering any questions but one hardy soul still gave it a try. "How do you think the public will react to the book, Mr Hoddle." he ventured. No reply: "So you've got nothing to say about "I think he's doing a marvellous that's what they all say and test-the book at all?" Nothing at all. joh and it's a shame the way the ed her knowledge of the subject.

The first lucky lad to have his version of the Hoddle testament signed was James Bundock, from Eltham. "He's one of my childhood heroes, cos he played for Tottenham," be said, "I think England are going to do it one day with him. I think he did a re-

ally good job in the World Cup". John Hudson, from Eastbourne, echoed those sentiments but with a hint of dissent.

press has been on his back. But I don't think he should have written the book at the moment. If you are going to write a book like that perhaps he should have waited until he has finished being manager of the England team."

Giving it an international flavour was Tracy from Australia: "I am actually buying it for a friend," she said. I suggested

Boyd views rewards

"All I know is that he's a very unattractive manager and be used

Peter Jay

to be manager of England." But from Tokyo, Souichiro. a true believer, said: "He's my favourite player since I was young. I saw him playing for the first time when I lived for 10 years in France and I am shill playing football because I was very touched by his way of playing. I am on holiday here and today is the most beautiful day

Casiraghi in favour?

THE CHELSEA striker Pierluigi Casiraghi is in line for a recall to Italy's squad for the European Championship qualifier against Wales at Antield on

5 September. The £5.4m signing missed out on the World Cup finals because Cesare Maldini, then the national coach, favoured the former Middlesbrough man Fabrizio Ravanelli. But Dino Zoff, the new national coach, is expected to pick Casiraghi, along with his Chelsea team-mate,

Roberto Di Matteo. There is unlikely to be a reçall for another Italian at Chelea, Gianfranco Zola, when the squad is announced on Sunday. Zoff said: "I won't be changing much for the first match, it is too soon. Our league hasn't started yet, and there is a limited indication of form." The Milan defender, Paolo Maldini, is still considering retiring from international football

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL 7.30 unless stated
EUROPEAN CUP
SECOND QUALIFYING ROUND
SECOND LEG LKS Lodz (0) v Man Utd (2) (8.05).... Croatia Zagreb (0) v Celtic (1) WORTHINGTON CUP FIRST ROUND SECOND LEG

Forest Green v Cheitenham (7.45) DR MARTERS LEAGUE Premier Dis-sions Boston Uto v Rochwell. Middand Dis-violone Racing Club Warwick v Chaderford. Southers Division: Brackley v Fleet, Cor-Southers Division: Brackley v Fleet, Cor-

by v Winey. UNBOND LEAGUE First Division: Brad-ford Park Avenue v Whitley Bay. RYMAN LEAGUE First Division: Mole-NSTORIEAD KENT LEAGUE First Di-log: Folkerone u Contentiii

vision: Folkestone v Crockenhill.

UNIVET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE PASS.

Desisions Chichester v Lindenamoton; Eastbourne Town v Hollsham; Hassocks v.
Pagnam.

SCREMPTX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Divisions: Chippenham v Bristol Manor Farm;
Therron v Bioleford; Yeord v Taunton. Therron v Bideford: Yeodi v Jaurico.

NOSTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE
Premier Divisios: Sheffield v Arnold.

JEMSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division: Stowmarket v Soham (7.45). Murron: Brandon v Northallerton.
PRESS AND JOURNAL HIGHLAND
LEAGUE: Nairn County v Fraserburgh.
PONTINS LEAGUE Premier Division: Acton Villa v Stole (7.0): Prestor v Leicester (7.15): First Division: Barosley v Middebrough (7.0): Port Vale v Manchester City (7.0): Second Division: Scruborough v Vint (7.0): Shrewborry v Lincoln City (7.0): Stockport v Notic County (7.0): Taind Division: Bury v Halfas (or Rocklife Borough):

Darlington v Carlisle (2.0); Hull v Chester (2.0); Scunthorpe v Chesterfield (7.0); Wigan v Hartlepool (2.0). Auton INSURANCE COMMINATION Physiologisms: Brentford v Chelsea (7.0); Brighton v Mycombe (7.0); Carbridge Utd v Litton (2.0); Colchester v Tottenham; Gillingham v Southampton; [sawkh v Charl-ton (7.0); Swindon v Fulham (7.15).

ponement referred to the origi-

CRICKET 11.0 unless stated; first day of four unless stated BRITANNIC ASSURANCE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP DERBY: Derbyshire v Durham.

HOVE: Sussex v Harnoshire. SCARBORDUGH: Yorkshire v Essex

MCC TROPHY Float (One day) Lond's RUGBY UNION

DUGRY I FAGUE RUGBY LEAGUE Second Dhd ham v Lancashire Lynx (7,30). SPEEDWAY LEAGUE: Poole v King's Lynn

ER LEAGUE Hull v Berwick (7.30). OTHER SPORTS WILS: English National Champ arthing).

WEEKEND POOLS FORECAST FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

Arsenal v Charlton Blackburn v Leigester 3 Coventry v West Ham 5 Sheffleld Wed v Aston Villa 8 Wimbledon v Leeds...

Sunday: Newcastle v Liverpool. NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

Birmingham v Barnsley . Bolton v Sheffield Urd . 11 Huddersfield v Portsma 12 Oxford Utd v Grimsby **16** Tranmere v Bristol City

SECOND DIVISION

18 Blackpool v Gillingham . 22 Lincoln City v Preston... 23 Luton v Coichester 24 Milhaall v Macclesfield 5 Notes County v Manchester 26 Stoke v Oldha

29 York v Wycombe.

THIRD DIVISION

34 Excer v Carillae
35 Hull v Peterforrough
236 Leyton Orient v Scarborough
37 Mansfield v Swansea
38 Rochdale v Darlington
23 Scunthorpe v Plymouth
1 Also playing—not on composes: Southend v Chester, Fridays: Halifax v Strewsbury.

34 Exerer v Carlisle

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE 42 Rangers v St Johnstone Sandag: Kilmarnock v Hearts: Moth v Dundee Utd.

FIRST DIVISION 43 Airdrie v Raith 44 Falkirk v Stransaer

SECOND DIVISION Condenbeath, Stenhousemain v Ease Stiking.
TEN HORIUES: Assenat; Bolton; Bristol
Rovers; Futham: Miliwait; Stoke: York; Leyton Orient: Rangers: Falklin.
FFIVE ANALYS: Crystal Palack: Manchester
City; Brentford: Celtic; Aberdeen.
FOUR DIRECTION Stackburn v Leboster; Wimbledon v Leeds; West: Bromwich v Norwich:
Cardiff v Rotherham.

beyond first hurdle TOM BOYD, the Celtic captain, insists his side must succeed in their chase for a Champions' League place if Scottish clubs

are to shed their tag of European also-rans. The Parkhead side's destiny rests on the outcome of tonight's second qualifying round second leg tie against Croatia Zagreb. After a 1-0 home win a fort-

night ago through Darren Jackson's goal, Celtic are 90 minutes away from joining Europe's elite. That would rank as an achievement in itself according to Boyd, who believes being part of the Champions' League is the key to restoring the Scots' diminished reputation overseas.

This season has seen the launch of the new Scottish Premier League, but domestic rewards cannot compare in scale to victories over Europe's finest.

Newcastle deprived Zagreb of qualification, and now at the Maksimir Stadium the Croatians are determined to overturn that setback.

Celtic's own motivation stands comparisons as they aim to redress the recent failings of Rangers in the same competition. He said: "Just to make the Champions' League, that is you in with the best. We have had a lot of disappointing results in Europe recently and no Scottish club has really gone too far. But we know if we can get a result in this one game, we are then guaranteed at least six match-

es against quality opposition." Boyd knows how Celtic approach this return leg will be crucial. An away goal scored first would leave Zagreb need-

At this stage last season ing three to win, and yet while the match remains goalless the emphasis will be on the trailing home side to be the more positive.

Celtic's main injury con-However, as Boyd stresses, cerns are Jackie McNamara and Morten Wieghorst That Wieghorst missed Saturday's 2-1 win over Dundee United effectively rules the Dane out, as his last game was in pre-season against Kilmarnock when he sustained a knee problem. Jozef Venglos, the head

coach, is more optimistic about McNamara, who will be given maximum recovery time because of his importance to the game plan. He said: "There is so little between the teams that one man playing or not playing could be the vital difference, but only those 100 per cent fit can be considered.

SP()K'



THE MAKING OF MAKINEN P21 • THE RENAISSANCE OF RUSEDSKI P23

Super league blueprint revealed

BY NICK HARRIS RODOLFO HECHT, the man behind plans for a European super league, said yesterday in London that he had "absolute confidence" that the tournaclose to becoming a reality. ment would be up and running by the summer of 2000.

Milan-based Media Partners, faces a struggle with the leaders of Europe's major leagues, who rejected his plans at a

meeting in Geneva yesterday.
"Uotil we had the final shape
of the concept, we didn't want to go public with it," Hecht said Hecht met on Monday with Europe's leading clubs, including Manchester United and Arsenal, and oow feels his ambition of the last three years is

Yesterday, he outlined in de-However, Hecht, president of tail for the first time precisely how his company's plans will work. The main competitioo will be known as the European Football League and will consist The man behind the revolution

'The ESL started as a hobby to see if we develop something better for the clubs and fans' Rodolfo Hecht reveals all, page 20

of 32 teams in two divisions. Sixteeo clubs, which would be known as "founder members", have been invited to join on the basis of their "sporting merit" over the past 10 years. These clubs - including Manchester

United, Arsenal and Liverpool are those which have the best 10-year performance records in their countries according to Media Partners' analysis. Their place in the ESL would be guar-

and changed as their fortunes on the pitch fluctuate. "The criteria is rooted in on the pitch

The other 16 sides will qualify for the ESL on the basis of

son. At least one of these places would be given to an English side, in addition to the three named clubs, should those clubs chose to participate. A second competition - the Pro Cup - will see another 56-plus teams (including at least six more

out, Uefa Cup style competition. Teams in the super league will be guaranteed nearly £20m each perseason for taking part. Hecht chose yesterday to reveal his plans because he now feels

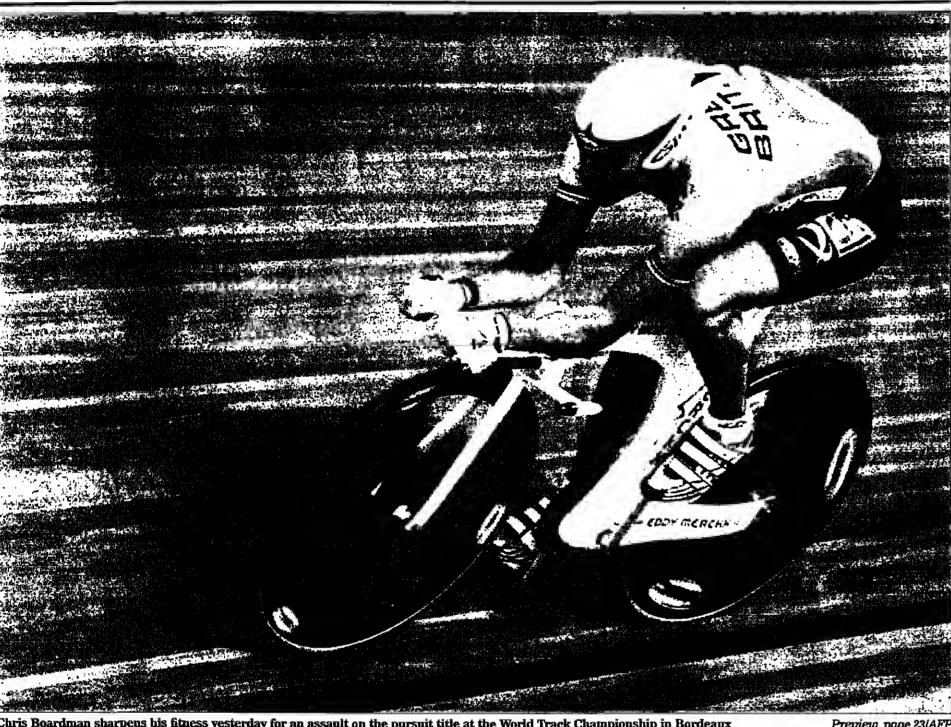
from England) contest a knock-

major clubs to go ahead. That support is not forthcoming from leagues in which the clubs play. Uefa's Committee for Professional Football said in Geneva yesterday it opposed the project. Antonio Matarrese, the committee's chairman and a Uefa vice-president, said: "The committee does not feel it deserves our attention."

The meeting was attended by the Uefa general secretary: Gerhard Aigner, and the heads of Eu-

he has the support of Europe's Leaver of the Premier League. Matarrese said there were moments of antagonism among members but they all were in agreement in opposing the super league plan.

However, Ucia could seek in head off the threat of a breakaway league at a meeting in Monaco on Saturday, where changes to the format of the three major European club championships will be discussed, Aigner confirmed yesterday plans to merge the Uefa



Chris Boardman sharpens his fitness yesterday for an assault on the pursuit title at the World Track Championship in Bordeaux

Preview, page 23/AFP

Harford the target for Newcastle

BY ALAN NIXON

KENNY DALGLISH wants Ray Harford to join him at New-castle United in a repeat of their title-winning double act at Blackburn Rovers.

Harford is insecure at Queen's Park Rangers, where he has had an unhappy managerial reign since joining them from West Bromwich Albion. He has little money to spend, despite selling Nigel Quashie to Nottingham Forest for £2.5m.

Dalglish is keen for Harford to be reunited with him at Newcastle and add his knowledge to their coaching team - they had a successful partnership at Blackburn, where they won move has been delayed because Rangers want compensation for Harford – despite his patchy performance.

Alan Ball has re-signed the nglish football". The Portsmouth manager gave Martin Phillips, that accolade when he took him with him from Exeter to Manchester City for £500,000 in November, 1995. Yesterday the 22-year-old moved to Fratton Park from Maine Road for a nominal fee.

The Leeds United midfielder Andy Gray is set to become Nottingham Forest's second midfield recruit in a week. After Quashie's arrival from Queen's

Park Rangers, Forest yesterday agreed a fee of £200,000 for Gray, a Scottish Under-21 international. His father, Frank, also played ot full-back for Leeds and Forest.

The Notts County manager. Sam Allardyce, has invited. Dennis Booth to become his assistant, following Mark Smith's departure to join the Barnsley coaching staff, Booth is currently the reserve-team coach

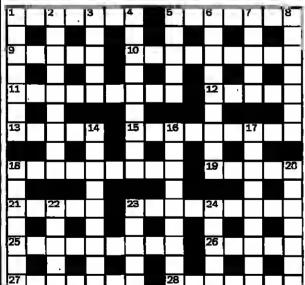
Fifa, world football's ruling body, has told the eight nations taking part in the Confederations Cup this winter that they do not have to pick their strongest squads for the tournament. This may defuse a the Premiership, However, the potential row between the world champions, France, and Arsenal and Chelsea.

Arsenal's Emmanuel Petit. Patrick Vieira and Nicolas Anelka and Chelsea's Marcel Dewinger he once described as sailly and Frank Lebouef could the most exciting player in all be called up by France to go to Mexico for the event in mid January.

But now that Fifa has given Roger Lemerre, the new French national coach, the green light to try out some fringe players, a major club v country row may he averted. The other seven nations in-

volved in the Confederations Cup are the United States, Brazil, Bolivia, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Australia and the hosts.

THE WEDNESDAY CROSSWORD



ACROSS Rosemary, for example, remaining in lead (7) Open insult from a fellow going by van (7) Alternative to last

month's colour scheme Patience of Americans at Oriel is remarkable (9) 11 Hong Kong currency to recover, as from heart of

12 Last in series of bome 13 County dandies? (5)

15 He was winning, he thought, on the pools (9) 18 They settle with coins lost carelessly (9) 19 Forename of film-star

who showed dress-ring?

21 Backer of spirit (5)



ing pontoon (9) Square vessel in engagement (9)

26 He was bound to go round in the heat (5) Director ran out, unfortunately for supporter of the dome (7) 28 Table centrepie

Bid to affect pace in this Kind of hitch in College of Applied Science (9) Headless monster in slip

Fundamental rules marking limits of activity in court? (9) Compose a Latin ballad 24 Blade, keen at first, to

Fellow in Gotham fixed the plumbing (9) Love to be a girl? (5)

They protect climbers' 14 One in a suit wearing vest? (9) Eugenia taking wine with Granny Smith, perhaps

pea-green possibly with a piece missing (7)

DOWN

17 Maxim in vision, fluctuating (9)

18 Occasion right for an un-18 Occasion right for an unscrupulous opportunist?

As a neck is damaged in a sideways glance (7) Sound from smallest in litter at end of feeding (5) A habit endlessly broken m San Salvador, formerly

turn out fine (5)

Holmes finally ends the misery

ATHLETICS

BY BRYN PALMER

KELLY HOLMES returns to competition on Sunday aiming to prove she is on course to defend her Commonwealth title in Kuala Lumpur next month. The 1500m champion will

end months of agony when she takes on the Americans in the Spar British Challenge at Glasgow's Scotstoun stadium. At the lowest point of her struggle to recover from injury, Holmes, the former army

sergeant who announced her arrival on the international scene by winning silver and bronze medals at the 1995

she might never be able to

Favourite for gold at the same championships in Athens last year, she limped off the track with a serious Achilles injury that threatened her future in the sport. But after fighting her way back to fitness with an intensive physiotherapy programme, the 28-year-old cannot wait to resume her racing career again on Sunday, when she will face Britain's European Cup 5,000m champion, Paula

Radcliffe, in the mile. "There have been times this winter when I really thought I would never get fit for this summer, but I have and I cannot wait to race in Glasgow,"

which confirmed to me that everything is now fully recovered. I am short of specific race sharpness but my training has been pretty good. I am really looking forward to racing Paula to let me know exactly where I am.'

Radcliffe will also be aiming to regain form before thoughts turn to Kuala Lumpur in just over a fortnight's time. She managing only a disappointing fifth place in the 10,000m at the European Championships in Budapest last week.

The Scotstoun event will see the first outings on home soil of many of Britain's heroes since their magnificeot performances in the Hungarian capital.

Mitchell to contest dope verdict

DENNIS MITCHELL, the Amerpledged to fight the two-year drug suspension handed to him by the International Amateur Athletic Federation.

"This is the blackest mark that any athlete can have on their record," Mitchell said at medallist insists he is innoa news conference. "I have done oothing wrong, but I am not being permitted to compete. I will now proceed through the career, thought that the only hearing process. I can only hope that justice will prevail and I will be rightfully exonerated."

Mitchell, 32, has requested a hearing before the USA Track and Field Doping Hearing Board. Were the panel to find the athlete not guilty, they would have the power to overturn the

current suspension by a maican sprinter, yesterday jority vote, thus freeing Mitchell to compete again.

Mitchell received the suspension after testing positive for testosterone at an out-of-competition sample on 1 April, but the 1992 Olympic 100m bronze cent. "This is both morally and ethically unacceptable to me," he said "I have, throughout my way to succeed was through hard work and dedication to yourself and God. I never in my wildest dreams thought this would happen to me."

Suja Thomas, Mitchell's lawyer, said that the disgraced athlete would contest the va-

"Experts will firstly look at whether or not the test itself was correct," Thomas said of the two urine samples. "And, secondly, if the test was correct. what could have caused the testosterone to epitestosterone [another natural substance] level to increase [above the allowable ratio of 6:1]."

Ironically, as president of the USATF's Athletes Advisory Committee - the athletes' voice in the governing body - Mitchell has often appeared an outspoken advocate of keeping drugs out of his sport.

"The things that have happened to me in the last few months will forever affect all parts of my life," he said. "This

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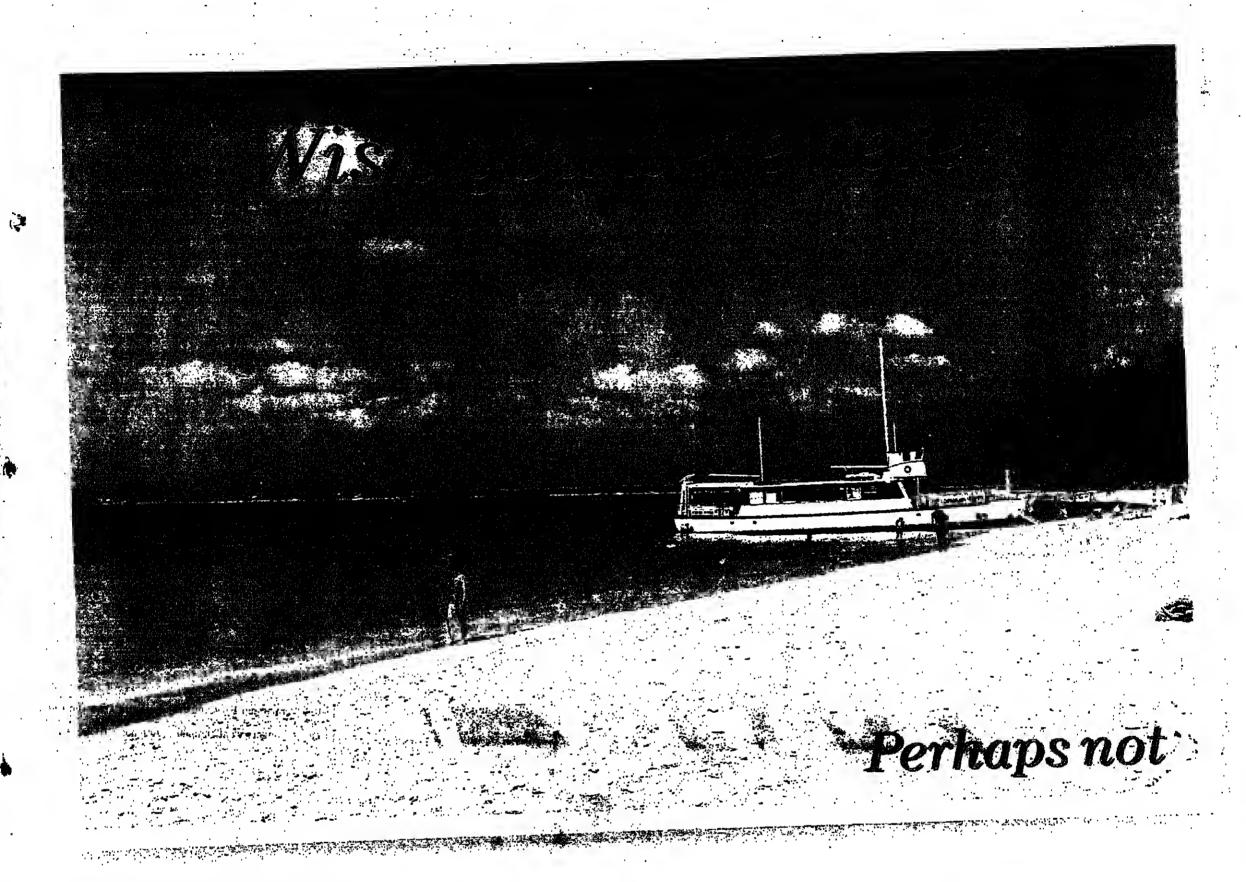
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MEDNESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



Over three thousand Britons have died while travelling abroad since 1994. When foul play is involved, their families can face massive indifference from the authorities if they try to find the culprits. No one wants trouble in a tourist paradise

here is no need to be alarmed," Cornelius Smith assured would-be visitors to the Bahamas this week. The Minister for Tourism was not going to allow the mere presence of a serial killer, who has attacked and strangled at least two female holiday-makers, to tarnish the islands' reputation as a luxurious and crime-free destination.

One of the killer's victims was Joanne Clarke, a 24-year-old British primary school teacher of children with special needs. Her body was found in bushes behind the palm-fringed Cabbage Beach n Paradise Island. Joanne had travelled to the Bahamas for a three-week holiday, staying with a friend who is a nanny for a British family living in the capital, Nassau.

The discovery last weekend of her body and the decomposing remains of another woman - thought to be Lori Fogleman, a 32year-old American teacher - came on the anniversary of the murder of another British woman, Carole Leach, also a teacher, who had been living on the neighbouring island of Eleuthera. The killer has never been caught.

As greater numbers of British travellers seek out ever more distant and exotic holiday destinations, so more of them are dying in suspicious or mysterious circumstances. But in many underresourced nations that are becoming dependent on the tourist dollar, there is a reluctance to pursue high-profile investigations that generate publicity that could ruin the local economy. One senior British police source says: "In many Third World countries they only bother with an investigation if it's someone important. They don't do house-to-house inquiries; they don't have the same standards of scene-of-crime investigations [as we do] and they rarely interview witnesses properly."

In Britain last year, 91 per cent of all murder and manslaughter thes were cleared up within a year. But many families of people killed overseas have found that they have had to put great pressure on police simply to keep the investigations alive.

John Dickinson, whose daughter Caroline was murdered in France two years ago, was infuriated by the way the French police set about the investigation. The investigating magistrate refused even to speak to him. "It concerned me greatly that he couldn't spend five minutes of his time to meet the father of a murdered schoolgirl," he recalls.

Yesterday, in Kenya, a man was finally due in court accused of murdering the British tourist Julie Ward, who was murdered while travelling in the Masai Mara National Reserve. Her millonaire father. John Ward, has waged a 10-year campaign to bring

the killers to justice. Figures released by the Foreign Office yesterday show that an elarmingly high number of Britons die while travelling overseas. Since 1994, 289 British citizens have died in Thailand, 192 in India, 48 in Indonesia, 24 in Nepal. There have been 415 British deaths reece, 233 in Turkey, 378 in France and 1,607 in Spain.

THEY FOUND Peter Norton lying in a school yard underneath a tree. He had arrived in Bali only the day before, in search of a couple of weeks' surfing before going back to his studies.

Now he is dead, and no one knows why. The local police do not seem to be concerned.

If anyone were ever properly prepared for the hidden risks of foreign travel, it was Peter Norton. Though only a month past his 21st birthday, he was the veteran of a 12-month round-the-world adventure only two years previously. He was also blessed with exceptional maturity, a gentle, non-confrontational nature and a genuine love of other cultures.

Peter had travelled to the Indonesian island with his friend Jonathan, a 28-year-old dentist whom he had met in Australia. The fortnight's trip was to set him up for a term studying in France as part of his International Business Studies degree. His mother, Mary, remembers: "He was full of enthusiasm. After his world trip we thought this would just be two weeks' holiday."

The two young men arrived in Bali on a Sunday afternoon in February last year and decided to spend their first evening at the Bounty Bar, a popular meeting-place for young international trav-ellers. Shortly after 2am, Jonathan came off the club's dance floor and looked for his friend. Peter was nowhere to be seen, but since he was the sort of person who makes friends easily, Jonathan

BY IAN BURRELL

returned to their hotel confident that he was in no danger For the next two days Jonathan searched for Peter, calling at the addresses of friends who were also staying in Bali. By Wednesday morning he had become deeply concerned, and called at the police station to report a missing person. He was met with indifference, and given a lost luggage form. It was only on his third visit to the station that Jonathan was told, as an afterthought, that a young tourist had been found, apparently drunk, two days earlier. He had been taken to hospital.

Mrs Norton says: "Jonathan thought Peter was going to be sitting on the bed saying: 'How long does it take you, Jonathan?' He found him in intensive care, on a ventilator. The police had given him no idea of the seriousness of the situation.

Peter had a deep wound at the back of his skull, two inches across, as if he had been hit with a piece of pipe. The medical staff tried to convince Jonathan that his friend

Things moved quickly after the British consul, Jean Harrod, became involved. Peter was taken by helicopter to Singapore and his parents were notified. Mary, a Bedfordshire midwife, and her husband David, a quantity surveyor, flew to their son's bedside. Despite the best efforts of the hospital staff Peter died, a week after he had been found in the school yard. He never regained

had been in a traffic accident.

consciousness to explain how his injuries had been caused. The Foreign Office asked the Indonesian authorities for a "full and thorough" investigation, but Mary and David Norton are still none the wiser. "We wanted to keep it high-profile but I think tourism is all they have got," she says.

So she may never know how Peter's body was lifted over the high school walls and carefully placed in the shade of the tree. Nor is she likely to learn how he came by the gash at the back

A Singapore inquest recorded an open verdict. Last month, at second hearing, Luton coroners made the same finding.

Peter had not been drunk. Nor was he the type to go climbing trees or walls in the dark.

Mrs Norton says: "I could imagine him walking on to the beach to take in the atmosphere. But he was aware. He was sensible. There has never been any indication of the cause of the head

WHEN EDGAR Fernandes, a London librarian, went missing last April, a day after arriving in Turkey for a week's holiday, the authorities in Istanbul suggested to his family that he might have found himself a girlfriend.

His exasperated relatives eventually flew to Istanbul themselves and tracked down his unidentified body in a morgue. He had been beaten and robbed of his wallet and British passport, then thrown into the Bosporus.

His sister Jenny says that even after the body was found, it was the Fernandes family who had to carry out the search for The family managed to use Edgar's credit card statements to

trace a man who has now been arrested in Malta, and charged with credit card fraud and use of a false passport. Following pressure from the family, and from the MP Keith Vaz, the Turkish authorities are seeking to extradite this man as a suspect in Edgar's murder.

Mr Vaz believes that British citizens, especially those from Asian communities, are being targeted for their passports by criminals involved in organised illegal immigration.

The families of those killed abroad advise all young travellers to make sure that they carry identification on their person at all times, so that consulates and families can be contacted if they are found injured.

Many young travellers choose not to take out travel insurance because they are carrying little of value - without realising that they could require very expensive hospital treatment if they were to be attacked.

"I don't think British tourists are aware of the dangers," says Jenny Fernandes. "They do not realise that if they are attacked or murdered there is very little that those authorities will do - or that the British government will do."

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FINANCE & SECRETARIAL



1EW 1998

'Nerve gas' doubts

Sir: Your report (25 August) about the compound "from the Sudanese pharmaceutical factory" that led to the bombing of that factory needs to be examined critically.

Types of the compound described by you, an ethyl-methyl-phosphorus derivative, can be bought on the open market. If every laboratory which has such a chemical in its possession is to be bombed, then it is goodbye to many chemistry departments in UK, USA and all over the world.

It is essential that investigators prove that the compound was made in the Sudanese factory and that it was made in quantities likely to be useful in the preparation of nerve gases, and for no other reason. I incorporated such compounds in the design of potential platinum anti-cancer drugs thirty years ago.

The public must know the facts

about the chemicals concerned in order to feel sure that terrorist targets were attacked and not innocent parties. People worldwide will support the effort to eliminate terrorists, but not random reprisal raids, just to show the ability to strike anybody, anywhere. The USA must come clean, as must our government. Professor R. J.P. WILLIAMS FRS Inorganic Chemistry Laboratory University of Oxford.

Sir: I was interested to read, among the various sources of evidence considered by the US government in justifying the bombing of the factory in Khartoum, the suggestion that "the CIA employed banded migratory birds" in the bope of collecting evidence (report, 25 August).

I had no idea that covert operations had reached such a level of sophistication and I applaud the sheer audacity and imagination of using a flock of hand-picked, highly trained swallows for reconnaissance missions. These plucky feathered heroes brilliantly met their objective of seeking out information on terrorist activities. I think there is more to this than meets the eye. For example, was another team involved at ground level, ostriches perhaps, tasked with objective of illuminating the target with lasers for the US Air

Force?
However, maybe now is not the time to press too hard for information about the courageous feats of these operatives. They will no doubt be too exhausted from their long flight and debriefing at Langley. Their story will be told in time. In the meantime, I salute their bravery and rest assured that this bombing was carried out on the basis of rock-solid evidence.

I will now write to the Ministry

of Defence to point out the merits of training badgers in tank warfare. JONATHAN FAIRCLOUGH Basildon, Essex

Exam results

Sir. All assessment systems make mistakes and are unfair (Letters, 22, 25 August). Different systems are unfair to different people.

The advantages of "big bang" final exams are that all students take the same papers under the same (external) conditions, cheating is difficult and what is assessed (fallibly) is what the student has become.

Continuous assessment reduces (peak) stress but can favour students who come from academic backgrounds and enjoy access to expensive aids (books, word-processors etc) throughout their course. Ceteris paribus, it advantages those who change the

Education and assessment are often incompatible. I prefer to be a continuous educator rather than a continuous assessor – with all of the two-way pressure that entails. PK BURGESS
Department of Psychology
Dundee University

Sir: Could anyone really be surprised by the fate of Britain'a physics departments ("Physics

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk

E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity



Continuing our series on the rickshaws of Dhaka in Bangladesh, the rider of a cycle rickshaw repairs a puncture. Roughly half of the city's population (ie the upper half) ride in rickshaws, while those from the other half run them

Kalpesh Lathigra

fails to flourish", 24 August)? In concentrating on the difficulty of the subject, which is unimportant to anyone really interested, your article failed to mention one crucial point: the paltry financial rewards offered by a career in physics. A mind of the quality required adequately to master the discipline will very quickly deduce that it could be put to use far more lucratively elsewhere.

This problem is not new. It made the headlines during the "brain drain" in the late Seventies and early Eighties, but at least we then had world-class facilities to train the brains. Unless physics is rewarded properly in this country, this fascinating and crucial subject will decline into being no more than a hobby to be studied by correspondence once we have provided for ourselves and our families through other means.

ALEX CARRILLO Knutsford, Cheshire

Spirit of Diana

Sir. Paul Vallely's perceptive analysis of the spiritual impact of the death of Diana (24 August) appears to have overlooked one crucial factor – the symbolism of the accident itself.

Religious leaders have for decades been teaching and struggling against the values of an age in which money, physical beauty and material possessions are set out as the goals to which to aspire. Religious teachers have by and large failed to convince the majority that such ambitions are ultimately futile.

Diana had it all in a modern sense. She had beauty and wealth. She had spent the night before with her lover on a yacht in the Mediterranean, had been whisked to Paris for dinner at the Ritz and was racing through the streets in a fast modern car. Then suddenly, in a brutal instant, it was all over.

Reportedly ber last words were "My God! What's happening?"
That question is both secular (was she killed by a drunk driver, by the paparazzi, or was she a victim of a conspiracy?) and spiritual (why does God allow tragedy, what happens after death, what is the purpose of life if it can be snatched away in such a manner?).

In the manner and symbolism of her death Diana forced millions of people to face up to religious questions and, in the week of mourning, enabled millions to discover their own abilities to seek spiritual answers. She did this unintentionally, but nevertheless more eloquently than any contemporary religious teacher had been able to do.

TED HARRISON

Sir: I have a laptop computer,

processing and spreadsheets.

In December 1999 I will reset

the internal clock to December

1983, so the year 2000 will

appear as 1984 (also a leap

year). New documents will

appear in the file register as

having been created in 1984

onwards, but as I did not buy

the computer until 1990 this

will cause minimal confusion.

Finally, I will amend the date

format so that the year is not

displayed in my documents.

This solution is unlikely to solve the worklwide

GRAEME STEPHENS

Nottinghamshire

Newark,

millennium bug problem, but it

will keep me going for at least

Sir: As a cyclist born well after

the war, I can tell Ani Harris

(letter, 18 August) that the

word "bonk" is still in active

use among cyclists although, since the tabloids hijacked it, I

have noticed a caution in using

the word, especially when new

cyclists are present. The word

is need in such phrases as "to

get the bonk"/"to be bonked"

(run out of energy/"hit the

which I use for word

Sittingbourne, Kent

Sir: No one wants to sponsor the religion section of the Millennium Dome. I take this as heartening news that there are still limits on the commercialisation of life in Britain. But it could also be a strong indicator of the flaw in the materialist system to which our society adheres. We can deliver the goods, but are bankrupt spiritually.

An empty room for the Spirit Section would be perfect and potent symbol of the spiritual vacuity of our culture. No room for the Spirit would be an even stronger sign of how far we have progressed, especially as the calendar whose second

IN BRIEF

wall"); "bonk rations" (food

and "bonk bag" (flat bag

carried over the shoulder

carried to stave off the bonk);

containing bonk rations, tools,

In hope that the cyclists'

language will outlast that of the tabloids.

Sir: David Lister, in his review of Robert Redford's film The

Horse Whisperer (20 August)

completely changed the ending. In the book ..." and he

ontcome. Neither my wife nor I

goes on to sum up the film'a

is familiar with the book, but

we were intending to go and

apared us from having to drag

ourselves down to the cinema

and saved us the price of the

tickets. Please pass on our grateful thanks. DAVID EAGLE

Sir: I am middle-class and

fairly ordinary, but I don't

Edinburah

see the film. Mr Lister has

writes, "Redford has

JUDYALLFREY

Hertfordshire

Barnet,

millennium we are marking started with no room at the inn for the hirth of Christ. The Rev STEPHEN LEEKE Warboys, Cambridgeshire

Jail for paedophiles

Sir: In your leading article
"These paedophiles should stay
in jail" (24 August), yon say that
the Government should
introduce legislation to enable
the behaviour of sex offenders to
be reviewed on a case-by-case
basis and that supervision
should be based on this
assessment.

mind John Walsh talking about

fleas ("Striptease, verse and fleas", 24 August). I also don't mind telling him he basn't a hope of squashing them with a rolled-np copy of Homes and Gardens, or any other hlunt instrument for that matter - at London SW1 least if his dog's fleas are anything like our cats'. The little blighters (the fleas, that is, not the cats) have a hard carapace which has to be squashed between two fingernails or something equally hard and pointed. HENRY WICKENS

Sir. On the subject of "phwoah" (letter, 24 Angust), who on earth plumped for the ending "oah"? Offhand, I can only think of two other words with that ending—Noah and Shenandoah. Doesn't "phworrh" catch the sound better?

KEITH LONG

Kingston-upon-Thomes,

Woldbillig, Luxembourg

Sir: On the occasions that I have had to write it, I have always spelt it thus: "Whooor!" MICHAEL T HYDE London N5 This is precisely what we have done. The Crime and Disorder Act introduces Sex Offender Orders which will bring under supervision sex offenders who give cause for concern, regardless of the legislation under which they were

lessible originally sentenced. The whole purpose of the order is to prevent further offending. Severe penalties, including imprisonment, are available for those who fail to comply with their Order.

We recognise that this is an area where there are no easy answers and that we may have to do more. But the Government has made a bold start and brought about a significant shift in the way sex offenders are handled in the community and by the criminal justice system. Our priority is to protect children and vulnerable adults. The police and probation services are responding magnificently to that challenge. ALUN MICHAEL Minister of State Home Office

Since you asked ...

Sir: William Hartston's concern about "ask" as a noun ("Words", 24 August) is misplaced.

In programming, an ask is a single act of putting a question. The programmer cannot and should not know the nature of the question put by the program-user. The word is used in the same manner as the nouns "call" and "put". These last two the argot of programmers is shared with that of market-makers. I am sure I recall, from my days in market trading, that "ask" was also used as a noun, although none of my dictionaries records this fact.

This development, if it is one, should be welcomed for adding precision and eliminating ambiguity. The nouns "ask", "question" and "questioning" each have different meanings both in singular and plural forms.

R J G MACY

Tunbridge Wells, Kent

Lockerbie trial

Sir: The British government, to its credit, guarantees the two Libyans accused of complicity in the Lockerbie bombing justice and a fair trial, without a jury and outside Scotland (report, 24 August).

For years the relatives were told the truth could not be revealed less it prejudice the jury. With no jury to prejudice it is now the turn of the victims and relatives to be shown the same justice and fairness as the accused.

The Government has the duty to publish without delay the evidence and the truth about the tragedy. If it does not, the agony of the relatives will be compounded by rumours and suspicions.

MARTIN CADMAN
Burnham Market
Norfolk
The uriter's son, Bill Cadman, toas on Flight 103

Grandchild's rights

Sir. I Collins (letters, 22 August) asks, "When will there be legal rights for grandchildren and grandparents to have contact?" Surprisingly, perhaps, these are already contained within the

already contained within the Children Act, 1989.

In reality, the judiciary generally believe that this contact should take place complementary to that of the non-resident parent. Also, contact is often not adequately enforced by the courts, who shy

from using the sanctions available within the Act.
Grandparents could qualify for legal aid if their income amounts to little more than the state pension. In addition they could consider representing themselves in the

family courts.
Families Need Fathers have a significant grandparent membership and would be able to offer assistance.
JOHN BEALE

Love thy neighbour

Sir: Gregg Stevens asserts that Baruch Goldstein, the fanalic who murdered 29 Palestinians at prayer in Hebron, is "reviled by his own society" (letter, 24 August).

society" (letter, 24 August).

He forgets that the lasting legacy of his actions (apart from a deep bitterness in the families of the dead) is a large marble monument erected in Hebron by the grateful settlers to bonour his

memory.

If Muslim countries were beloed to develop education and freedom of speech by the great powers rather than continually vilified in the Western press, it is more than likely that there would be no call among disaffected, unemployed Muslim youth for the "eradication of Western culture".

But encouraging such cultural shifts would take time, and win no votes at election time for democratic leaders anxious to prove their mettle.

we have not learned to love our neighbours: we are still stuck with the vengeful mentality of the Old Testament which started this same vendetta thousands of years

CHRISTOPHER STEWART
Cambridge

Save or spend?

Sir: The rather sour comments of W J Hyde (letter, 22 August) seem to be based upon a misunderstanding. There may be a minimum amount of tax it is necessary to raise from individuals in total but never an absolute amount, so one person's "tax break" is not subsidised by another's increase.

Rather, taxation is affected by economic management factors, including incentives to save rather than spend. It is this that has created PEPs and Tessas; any investment made in them must come from income that has already been subject to income tax. There is no question of giving those that choose to save tax revenues taken from anyone else.

R.J. CROWE

London W3

And now for an A N Wilson - but don't try this at home

IT'S THE time of the year when letters start coming in from eager young things about to embark upon that hot academic discipline of our time. Media Studies. They've passed their exams. They ve chosen their core modules – usually the films of Quentin Tarantino or a deconstruction of the Papa-Nicole advertising campaign. Now they have to select at least one course related in some way to the written word. Some choose the style novel, others the press release. All too many opt for a foundation course

in column-writing.

Goodness knows, one tries to be encouraging, but the naivety of these people is nothing short of frightening. They seem to believe that a columnist gets up in the morning, makes a cup of coffee and just sort of "writes". Not for a mo-

ment do they consider that, like any other aspect of the modern media, the creation of a column is a complex, highly sophisticated form of communication involving a vast network of technical support systems and research engines.

Admittedly, the profession is less of a closed shop than it used to be. Until recently, the Guild of Columnists insisted upon a three-year apprenticeship of local training before one was allowed to take a sideways look at life on a nabonal scale. Some of us found nothing wrong with this system: writing captions for the legendary "Boothil Baby" competition in the Disserpress or venturing a hard-hitting critique of the Hedgehog Rescue scheme for the Bury Free Press never did me any harm, By the time

an 800-word mood piece concern-

ing the decline of the brown hare caught the eye of a features editor.

I was ready for my big break.

Today it's all different A few

Today it's all different. A few questions – "Can you get a table at the Pharmacy using their private VIP line?" "Do you know Will Self and/or Tara Palmer-Tomkinson?" "Are you pretty?" – and you're in. Such is progress.

Interestingly, it a the question of subject matter which most intrigues the students. "How do you know what to write about?" they ask, as if writing a column involved sitting down and thinking very hard! The truth, of course, is that all of us depend upon a comprehensive back up service, that much of the craft of the job lies in knowing how to use the technology.

The initial process is simple

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Palmer-Tomkinson?"
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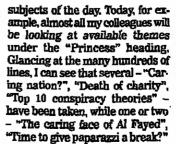
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BLACKER

'How do you know what
to write about?' they ask,
as if writing a column
involved thinking!

ing how to use the technology.

The initial process is simple enough. On the morning of a columnaid) and punching up the



- remain available.

Because there's fantastic rivalry for these headline themes, with some columnists getting up as early as 7am to reserve one, or "bag a line" as it's known in the trade, other columnists will be opting for lighter subject-matter.

Scrolling down, I see "Posh and Pregnant" ("Scary - the truth about unmarried showbiz mums", "The bulge as design accou-

trement", "Is this the end of marriage?") and "Feltz - Fab or Fatcat?" ("Are women taking over broadcasting?", "The irresistible frise of confessional TV", "The bulge as design accoutrement"). Relatively unpopular are "Cool Britannia Reaches Track and Field" and "Porn or Politically Correct? The Fringe Exposed".

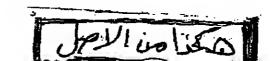
But the problem with reducing columns to this simple form is that students become convinced that, with basic computer skills and an introduction to Will Self, virtually anyone can do it. They fail to see that choosing a columnar personality is as complex as the selection of a role for an actor. Should you be the old fashioned lefty betrayed by Blair or the ever-

having elected to write a sickeningly frank running commentary on your miserable home life and incipient nervous collapse, you enter a disastrously contented phase?

a disastrously contented phase?
Finally, there's the question of opinions. It's not enough merely to have strongly-held views on virtually everything; your views must change rapidly and unpredictably, so that, at any given moment, they will baffle and emage even the most loyal readers. A master of the column, notably the great A N Wilson, can actually take a position, oppose himself, and end up where he first started, all within the same article.

started, all within the same article.
But this is a complex and dangerous manoeuvre, running a high risk of rupture, and should only be attempted by third-year students.

monsense? What happens if, Miles Kington is on holiday



I in herbie trial

for and child's right

*THE INDEPENDENT

1 CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARF, LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171 345 2435 THE INDEPENDENT ON THE INTERNET: WWW.INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Don't legislate in haste only to repent later

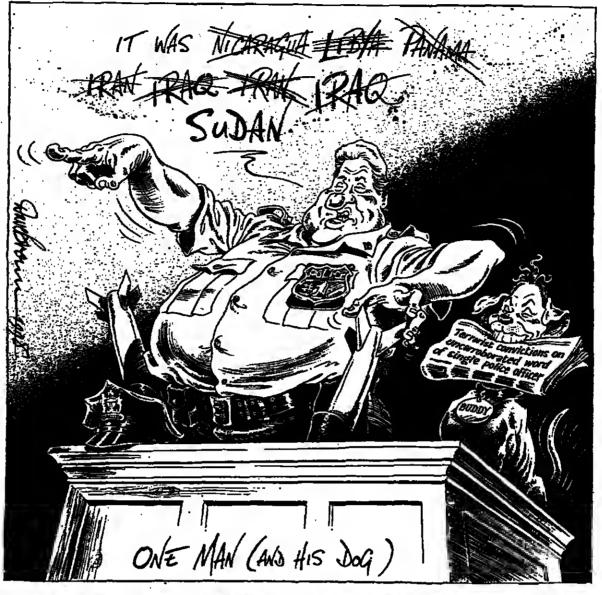
BAD LAWS, as Edmund Burke said, are the worst sort of tyranny. MPs would do well to remember it when they reconvene to discuss the legislation deemed necessary to capture the Omagh bombers. Too often the proposition that terrorist suspects have civil liberties is regarded as being somehow frivolous or peripheral, or in some cases even treacherous. But this is to miss the point entirely: if civil liberties don't apply to everyone they don't really apply at all.

London and Dublin are co-operating more closely in this than ever before, we are told. And bere is the rub: in the aftermath of a tragedy such as Omagh, the "do something" brigade are always vocal. It is, after all, human nature to want something positive to come from something negative, imposing order on an otherwise chaotic moral universe.

Dublin had already acted and been seen to take the lead on the issue so, in making yesterday's announcement, London was, implicitly, following suit (a political necessity, hut regrettable from the standpoint of the Prime Minister). Coupled with the fact that the issues themselves are often perceived as esoteric, something hrash was called for. And why just deal with things quietly in Whitehall, when you can tear MPs away from toe-twiddling on beaches and be seen to be acting? Especially during the August news tundra.

There are practical reasons why these new measures may he mistaken. There is a dangerous assumption in the air that the Omagh bomb is somehow going to be the last hig atrocity of the troubles. This is a mistake, and a stupid one at that. We should not fall into the trap, as people living smugly at the end of a millennium, of thinking that each incident is the defining one, each moment more significant than the last. As with weather statistics that make everything the worst or the best since records began, we debase the currency of debate by making such assumptions. And nor should such a bogus belief be used as a pretext on which to hang infringements of civil liberties - even unconsciously.

The war against terrorism in Ireland and elsewhere will carry on, probably indefinitely. This will not be the last time the Government is asked to make a choice between less liberty or the status quo under these circumstances. While not wanting to become jaded, we sbould deal with this fact in a grown-up manner rather than being flung from one set of circumstances to another, constantly surprised by them. We should seek to develop ways of dealing with the perpetrators were subsequently released - presumably hecause we should guard against overkill.



that bolster, rather than undermine, the case for a liberal democracy.

There is also the danger of the Government appearing sbort-termist and hasty: after the bombing of Afghanistan and Sudan comes the pelting of terrorist suspects with legal tomatoes. Allowing someone to be convicted of membership of a banned organisation, on the testimony of one policeman, seems a very bad idea under any circumstances - more so in Ireland now, when so many old personal scores remain unsettled.

And, by the way, isn't it worth remembering that three spects arrested immediately after the Omagh bomb

there was a lack of evidence with which to condemn them? Under the new measures, would they still be languishing in a cell?

Also, when it comes to implementation, the distinct possibility exists of a credibility gap, caused by having a policy that is apparently going in two directions at the same time. Convicted terrorists are being released from jail and internment has been discarded. Yet strategic decision-making in the Northern Ireland Office must surely have been unravelled by yesterday's announcements.

Yes, Mr Blair: this is a war and it must be won. But

A self-induced tartan nightmare

THAT TONY Blair is to make yet another of his morale boosting trips to Scotland this Thursday speaks volumes about the panicky mood in the Labour camp. The cause of the panic can be summed up in three letters: SNP. Despite a "summer offensive" against the Nats, Mr Blair's party still trail them in the polls. Labour has long regarded Scotland as its fieldom and their predicament is as unfamiliar as it is uncomfortable.

Mr Blair might be forgiven for asking how such a rotten state of affairs could have come about. Can he not claim Scottish roots? Did be not deliver devolution to the Scottish people? Has he not appointed Scots to important positions in his government? Is not his own spin doctor, Alastair Campbell, a bagpipe enthusiast? What's gone wrong?

Mr Blair, though, should not be so bewildered. Today, Labour is seen in Scotland as an essentially English party. It is a product of New Labour's obsession to the point of mania with the priorities of middle England. The Scottish Labour Party has been simply told to make a pledge not to use the discretion allowed to a Scottisb Parliament to vary the rate of income tax. The irony of Labour's freakish preoccupation with central control of party affairs whilst spouting the rhetoric of devolution hasn't been lost on the Scottish voters. Neither has Labour's appallingly sleazy record in local government gone without notice.

Mr Blair once, rather unwisely, dismissed the new Scottish Parliament as little more important than a parish council. Now, though, the Prime Minister bas perhaps realised that the direction of Scottish politics is not such a trivial business. If Labour fail to win power at the first elections to the Scottisb Parliament next year this will break the spell of New Labour invulnerability, damage Mr Blair's image as a "winner" and, crucially, place in jeopardy the chances of a second term of office. No wonder he's a wee bit worried.

Medical compassion

THE RETURN of the bedside manner is much to be desired. So it is nice to have the Council of the Deans of the Medical Schools recommending a move away from purely academic means of selecting students.

The arrogance displayed in recent medical negligence cases is part of a culture which views patients as intellectual problems, rather than as people. Any moves, like the Deans', are welcome moves to attack this problem at the roots.

Political correctness has not gone nearly far enough yet

THE NOTTING Hill carnival shocked by the results of research into approaches, and it is to the eternal attitudes of the 10,700 Home Office approaches, and it is to the eternal benefit of the Carnival that, for this year at least, prominent Tory politicians are likely to keep their baseball hats firmly in the cupboard. If past form is anything to go by, some sections of the media will take the festivities as their annual opportunity to examine the state of "race relations" in Britain. The Windrush celebrations this year have led to a revealing and often emotional discussion of the experiences of Britain's black population. But such a mature discussion is all too rare.

Take one example, the National Inion of Students. One of the most imazing developments of recent years has been that the NUS has energetically directed its anti-racism campaign against a tiny group of Islamic fundamentalists whom, the student leaders claim, are the main cause of racism in the colleges. I am sure that this group are, in all likelihood, deeply reactionary, but to take up this problem as part of an antiracist campaign, when the main problem of racism in our society is against the black communities, not caused by

This confused response to racism is thankfully less prevalent in the thinking of the Government. A littlenoticed story, which has bubbled away for a month but never really received the coverage it should have, is remely good news for those of us who have argued that racism has got to be tackled positively. At the beginning of this month, Jack Straw announced that the Government has ordered the adoption of a 12-month

staff. In focus groups, some Home Office managers were quoted as saying: "If you're a racist it is a bloody good job" and "Nigerians are the worst thieves in the world. If a Niger-ian said 'Nice day', I'd go outside and check". Managers are also accused of engaging in racist banter and victimisation of black staff.

The Government's response commits the Home Office to providing a day's racial awareness and equal opportunities training for top management, a new complaints scheme, targets for recruitment and promotion and improvements to job vacancy advertising, selection and promotion. A leaflet has been circulated to departmental staff, and the Permasaid: "A more concerted, systematic

and sustained effort is needed." No doubt the anti-political correct-ness lobby will be squirming out of the woodwork as I write. There is virtually no more insidious phrase in social policy debate than political correctness. An American import, its brilliant tactic is to label anyone who thinks we should do anything about racism, sexism or homophobia as "PC", thus meaning that we don't have to listen to them. In fact, anyone who suggests discrimination even exists is deemed to be "intolerant", "humourless".

"Statinist", "fascist" or "patronising". The most ridiculous manifestation of this debate are the thousands of column inches devoted to the "crisis of masculinity" we are all meant to be experiencing because women are supposedly taking over. Men are Through the adoption of an equal ordered the adoption of a first being apparently feeling unappreciated, and opportunities policy, backed up with forces that feeling.



KEN LIVINGSTONE The anti-PC lobby is just

a reactionary backlash against the gains made by blacks, women and gays

nent Secretary at the Home Office now everyone is meant to feel sorry for us. The anti-PC lobby is just a reactionary backlash against legitimate gains made by women, black people, lesbians and gay men. Far from having gone "too far", most of those gains have not gone far enough, as a glance at the dreadful economic position of black people in the US would show

> At the Greater London Council we tried our best to take our obligations under the Race Relations Act seriously. We established an ethnic minorities committee, which was much derided at the time. It is clear they have come to many of the same conclusions about tackling racism in

compulsory equality training for all interviewing staff, ethnic origin monitoring linked to equality targets, new grievance procedures and an imaginative "Second Chance" training

Through such measures the proportion of ethnic minority employees increased from 8 per cent in 1983 to 11 per cent in mid-1985. That success, if the GLC had not been abolished, would have still had some way to go before we came close to 18 per cent, which was at that time the proportion of ethnic minority Londoners.

The question for the cynics is: what would you do instead? At the GLC we tried to deal with the poor employment of black people in the fire brigade, which had just six black fire fighters in 1981 and more than 100 by mid-1985. Not a massive number out of 7,000 in total, but it would not have happened at all if the siren voices of the cynics had been listened to.

Jack Straw's initiative is timely in the light of the amazing revelations of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry, which has served to underline the crisis of confidence that exists amongst the black communities towards so many institutions, none more so than the Metropolitan Police. The relationship between the police and the black communities is at an all time low. As the National Assembly Against from reading the comments of senior Racism points out, "the perception of authorities to bring anyone to justice civil servants in the Home Office that the hlack communities is that the for the murder of Stephen Lawrence. police are racist, aggressive and increasingly corrupt". Evidence subtheir department that the ethnic mitted to the Lawrence inquiry on deaths in police custody only rein-

that black people are nearly eight times more likely to be stopped and searched by the police than white people, with the Metropolitan Police stopping and searching 189 black people per 1,000 of the black population, compared to a national average of all stops and searches of 17 per 1.000 people. These searches have doubled during the last 10 years, and balf of

them are in London. A Home Office report by the Police Research Group published on the day after Jack Straw's announcement of the Race Equality Action Plan showed that black people were disproportionstely likely to die in police custody, particularly as a result of police action. Of the 32 deaths linked to police or other official action between 1990 and 1996, nine were of

black people. The worst thing is, the more you look at the statistics, the worse things seem. The low number of black police officers; the even lower number of senior black police officers; the negligible number of police officers who have been disciplined for wrongful arrest, racist abuse and harassment of black people; the disproportionately high black prison population; the level of racist harassment and intimidation which goes unreported. It is a mountain of shameful figures, and sitting on top of it is the symbolic failure of the

Are we going to let it carry on or are we going to follow the Home Secretary's example with his race equalminorities committee came to then. stop-and-search figures and black ity action plan for Home Office staff and take the first fundamental step: accept that the problem exists?

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I am well, but in space it is better." Yuri Baturin. Russian cosmonaut, returning to Earth to find the rouble devalued ond n new government

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Remember that the sanctity of life in the hill villages of Afghanistan is an inviolable in the eyes of Almighty God as can be your own." William Gladstone, British Prime Minister

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Indian Tiger by Philip Meech

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IT TURNED out that President force. By returning this same Yeltsin was not changing politician to power now, the horses in mid-course, but changing parachutes during a jump - which, it goes without the same disparagement could saying, is a risky matter. Izvestia. Moscow

BOXUS YELTSIN'S reappointment of a prime minister he fired only five months ago seems an act of desperation. When he cashiered Viktor Chernomyrdin in March, Mr

president will have convinced many of his countrymen that be applied to him. The Washington Post

RUSSIANS SICK of watching their country speed through crisis after crisis like a rollercoaster with ruined brakes had

better brace themselves. In firing the government, one of them threatens to steal Yeltsin has forced Russia to rehis limelight-and whenever he themselves if yet another Yeltsin derided the long trace the same stretch of track wishes to create the impression downward spiral of political

MONITOR ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

World opinion on Russia's political turmoil

has developed a bad habit of fir-

ing staff members whenever

it covered five months ago. He that he really is doing something about the economy. Many passengers in the

Yeltsin signed the decree appointing Viktor Chernomyrdic as prime minister, the ailing Russian leader could well have been playing out the last act of his remarkable political career Giving Chernomyrdin unprecedented powers as the beir apparent could make for a roller-coaster must be asking more stable government but it

chaos has begun.

Russia Today, Moscow

squabbling and economic the fiscal measures needed to stabilise Russia's finances. Moscow Times

bow to tackle Russia's never-

WHEN PRESIDENT Boris WHILE HE may lack ideas on

ending problems, Mr Yeltsin is never slow when it comes to claiming it wasn't his fault. But most Russians long ago stopped believing that the man at the top is not to blame. They now see him as a buffoon who has presided over the whole-

sale decline of the country. will also slow attempts to take South China Morning Post

PANDORA

THE LAST time Robin Cook changed his mind and Iried to go off nn holiday - to turned down a \$20m Colorado - he was stopped by starring role in the film colleagues at the airport as version of Bret Easton the story of his extramarital Ellis's novel American affair was about to hreak. Psycho. The voyeuristic, Today our Foreign Secretary hlood-and-designer-labelsets off - with his new wife soaked account of a yappie on a richly deserved scrial murderer, American fortnight's vacation in France. Psycho struck many critics However, he won't be coming as the worst sensationalist back to Westminster when it tripe to come along in many years. The film was first ends, but will be accompanying the Queen on her state visit to Malaysia and planued as a low-budget production, but once Brunei. Last time Cook DiCaprin was aboard there travelled East with the Queer was talk of a \$40m budget, - to India - he departed a bit with Oliver Stone directing. early, causing his critics to accuse him of abandoning the Now that Leonardo has headed for the lifeboats. Sovereign to return to his American Psycho looks mistress. It's likely he'll be destined to end up where it belongs - sunk ont of sight. sticking right by her Majesty's side for the duration this time, then

winging back to that fantastic

Brighton conference.

IT'S STILL a month away

hnt Pandora can't believe

the mnnnting excitement.

This year's Labour Party

be a true extravaganza,

although its timing does

conference is promising to

present a potential problem for Jewish party members.

The Prime Minister will be

addressing conference on

which also marks the start of Yom Kippur, the haliest

Tuesday, 29 September,

holiday in the Hebrew calendar, when religinus

Jews will want to begin fasting by 6:30pm, to attend synagogue and be with their

families. Fortunately, Tony

afternoon. It remains to be

from this, the Jewish Day of

required. Pandnra donbts it.

Blair's speech should be

finished earlier in the

seen, however, if Blair's speech will draw inspiration

Atonement, when repentance for your sins is

but wouldn't that be a

MANDY'S AFTER-HOURS

Shop should have set new

standards of costomer

shopkeepers everywhere

Pandora wondered how the

Trade would fare, were he to

indulge in the same sort of

patronage back home in

new President of the Board of

service for British

leisurely evening

constituency? "Any

particular night in

his Cleveland

mind?" asked

the gental manager of

George Skinner.

Povey Carpets,

in Hartlepool.

"I'm normally

here late

assured

Pandora.

well."

BOW

anyway," he

Sundays as

REASSURING

Titanic star

DiCaprio has

Leonardn

to hear that the

shopping spree in the Conran

wonderful surprise?

PANDORA RECENTLY reported nn the domestic bliss of the film stars Uma Thurman and Ethan Hawke(pictured below) whose haby girl arrived earlier this summer. The DIY newlyweds were renovating their new country house up in Sneden's Landing, New York. But that's over now. After just six months, they have put the \$1.25m residence, "Ding Dong House", back on the market. One tabloid ventured that this might be hecause the house is haunted. In fact, the town is haunted by celebrities, past and present - Al Pacino, William Hurt, Bill Murray... Indeed "Ding Dong House" was the home, at various times, of the composer Aaron Copeland, the choreographer Jerome Robbins and the psychningically troubled Superman actress Margot Kidder. Ding dong ding. On secood thoughts, Uma and Ethan are staying put in Manhattan.

DOES ACUPUNCTURE on the 29th floor of Guy's Hospital sound like a tempting night out? Acupuncture is apparently a "leisure trainer" company. Most of the celebrities it invited to Monday night's launch party for its new trainers decided to give the hnspital bash a miss. The evening's entertainment

involved sticking a plaster nn part of your anatomy and then taking a photograph of it. This concept, advertisement,

has been found tno risqué to be hroadcast. A photo of one specific anatomical feature, minus the plaster, might not reflect acupuncture's bottom line. but it would mirror the firm's PR finesse.

A slurp of the fat cats' cream

WON'T hear a word against Fat Cats. They are so kind, so generous. so thoughtful, have given me so much entertainment and amusement. And money. Almost every day last week North West Water (NWW) has sent me £5 - for no reason whatsoever. It's like winning the Lottery without taking part.

The money comes with a letter from Roy Rumba. I think that's his name. His signature is impossible to read, and it's not printed out undemeath, but he is apparently Customer Operations Manager for NWW, West Cumbria division. In each letter, he thanks me for "my patience during the last few weeks' No problem, Roy Just keep sending

It'a all to do, I think, with the tap water turning nasty in Cockermouth, eight miles away from where we live in Lakeland. There were loudhailers in the street, and leaflets in several languages (which amused the locals. as there is no ethnic community ha Cockermouth, unless you count foreigners from Carlisle), warning people not to use the water. The result was mild panic. Shops ran out of bottled water. I have a friend, Jonty, with



HUNTER **DAVIES**

No one gives to the poor. That would be silly. You might catch something, such as their poorness

a restaurant in Cockermouth and he was told not even to wash his vegetables in tap water. Ugly rumours went round. Had Islamic fanatics poured chemicals in the water? More trouble at Sellafield?

We in Loweswater were not affected. So why are we being sent £5 and an apology? Or in my case, four 25's? Other locals have had two or three fivers, but I'm doing best so far. At least I thought I was. A farmer up the fellside behind us has also had a fiver - and he doesn't even have any water. Not in the NWW sense. His water comes from his

Each morning the fells ring to the sound of merry laughter as we all rush out to compare notes. How much have you got today? I say, three cheers for North West Water. In this nasty wet summer, it has cheered us up. Thank you, NWW.

"I hope you'll give it to a poor person," said my wife virtuously when the first lot arrived. You mean the poor chap who washes my Jag, or one of the shepherds looking after the Herdwicks in my fields, or one of the gardening staff in my orchard? No chance, I said,

When you are rich, free things bring enormous pleasure. And the richer you are, the more free things you get. I remember sitting with John Lennon and watching his excitement as he tore open parcels of presents from total strangers, or when Paul McCartney stayed with us on holiday. Local shops immediately seot him enormous boxes of food and wine. No one gives to poor people. That would he silly. You might catch something, such as their poorness. But if you give to the rich and famous, some of it might rub off on you

At this very moment, Michael Owen is about to get a brand new Jaguar sports car, tied up with ribbons. Outside his froot door, another nubile girl is waiting to be unwrapped. Does he need them? Does he heckers.

The NWW people have obviously realised how well off I am, observed my lovely house, seen my Jag in the drive, so the call has gone out, keep in with Hunt, shower him with money. It comes in the form of 25 vouchers which can be used at around 90 High Street shops. Boots in Cockermouth have razors on special offer at present, two for the price of one. I now have enough razors to last me till I'm 157.

But why are they doing it? There could be nther reasons.

1) It is a plot of Northumbria Water or Scottish Water. They want to take over NWW, so have started a campaign to make NWW look to-tally stupid and useless by sending out money in their name.

2) It's an eccentric millionaire. I read some years ago about a wealthy bloke who was so fed up with his squabbling family that just before he died, he opened the telephone directory at random and left all his money to the first ten names he saw.

This could be happening again. 3) It's a new TV show. They are secretly filming everyone in Loweswater as they rush out, clutching their free mooey. My wife is probably a plant. When she said "Are you giving to the poor?" the mini video camera was actually in

her pinny pocket.
4) It's a total cock-up by NWW. That's probably the likeliest ex-

planation Four days ago I faxed Roy Rumba, asking for an explanation. In his letter, he says it was "exceptionally heavy rain" in the first week of August causing a local stream, Park Beck, to burst its banks. Now it so happens that his beck is just five minutes from me and I know for a fact its bank was broken back in May 5 Very mysterious. In the meantime we must be grateful. It does make waiting for the postman each day awfully exciting.

It's legalised internment but welcome across Ireland

IN ANY civilised country the idea of a defendant being sent to jail simply on the say-so of a police officer would nrdinarily be greeted with astonishment, grave concern and sustained outcry. Centuries of legal theory have been built on the principle that laws should not simply be instruments of the state but must also protect the rights of the individual: that individuals should be regarded as innocent until proven guilty.

The new laws being readied for Ireland north and south appear to contain the extraordinary provision that individuals will henceforth be treated as guilty until declared innocent. There will be a trial but the evidence may take the form of assertioo rather the meticulous build ing of a case. On one reading this is close to legalised internment.

The Irish have a reputation for being agin the law, and certainly many thousands from both the republican and loyalist traditions have broken it on numerous occasions over the years. Yet the new measures were yesterday producing not an outcry hut a widespread welcome, indeed a historically broad welcome throughout these islands.

All sides in Ireland cherry-pick the law. Martin McGuinness of Sinn Fein complained yesterday of harshness in the new measures, but had nothing to say on the question of the IRA's continuing punishment beatings, one of which last month resulted in a man's death.

The representatives of Unionism always favour ever more numerous and more stringent laws, though they generally envisage them being used against republicans. The recent Drumcree confrontation saw tens of thousands of acts of loyalist law-breaking which went uncondemned by most Unionist politicians, and indeed by most



DAVID MCKITTRICK

Three decades of restrictive legislation have failed to crush the paramilitary groups

It is among Irish nationalists and among republicans in particular that reactions become even more complex. Purist republicans have a pretty straightforward view, which is that Britain has no right to pass any laws at all in Ireland.

But many Catholics and nationalists, while accepting British laws, have found much fault with their operation. The Prevention of Terrorism Act, burried through parliament after the 1974 Birmingham pub bombings, has been deeply unpopular. In recent years the PTA has been shown to have contributed to major miscarriages of justice such as the cases of the Birmingham 5, Guildford 4 and others.

The nationalist contention is that Britain too has cherry-picked the law. The authorities insist, for example, that soldiers guilty of wrongdoing are treated exactly the same as other citizens. Yet the conviction rate of soldiers prosecuted for the most serious offences has been vanishingly small.

Individual laws and indeed the whole system of justice in Northern Ireland have clearly been the cause of deep divisions of opinion. There is scope for many learned legal and political treatises on the effect of emergency laws during the troubles.

One argument is that many legal measures, such as internment without trial in the 1970s, were counterproductive and brought the law into disrepute. Others will contend that the huge swathes of emergency legislation placed on the statute book greatly assisted in combating and containing terrorism.

It has to be said, though, that the political movement and progress of receot years would seem to have been brought about through enlightened politics rather than restrictive legislation. Three decades paramilitary groups: they are still out there. The counter-argument, that it was the strength of the law which led Sinn Fein and others to sue for peace, will be debated by historians for decades.

But the terms of debate on new legislation have today changed utterly: the old pattern of London hringing in more laws while Dublin frets that they may do more harm than good has gone. This is because of two things: the Good Friday agreement and the Omagh

The new laws actually go against the logic of the agreement, which set up a review of emergency legislation with a view to relaxing it. But Omagh changed that mindset. It achieved exactly the opposite of what the bombers intended as it brought the two governments closer together.

There could hardly be a stronger symbol shared determination than the simultaneous recall of the two parliaments which will take place on Wednesday next. That double event will be unprecedented, yet in another



of all that law has not crushed the The Maze prison, seen by some as a symbol of repression

in Irish history.

given a chance to enter it. If they do, they eventually become conventional politicians, sometimes going on to become prime minister or

Those who refuse this offer and stick to their guns are left politically exposed and susceptible to all the system can throw at them. What follows is a sometimes merciless mopping-up, with more than a few dissenters executed, sometimes by former comrades.

This is the position of the Real IRA: friendless, bereft of sympathy, opponents of the Good Friday agreement. They are rebels without a cause and practically all of Ireland

wants them locked up.
Over all the years Sinn Fein and the IRA were never defeated by all that emergency legislation, largely because more than 100,000 voters in Northern Ireland regarded them not as terrorists hut as political ac-

rammes and policies.

are often reluctant to allow

them back into their lives.

However innovative "team

parenting" initiatives in Amer-

ica have achieved some suc-

cess in involving fathers and

mothers as stakeholders in

their children's future. Multi-

agency fatherhood task forces

at community and national

level could become common-

place in Britain, as could media

awareness campaigns actively

promoting the virtues of in-

volved fatherhood, and involv-

ing sports figures, a technique

used to great effect in America

sense the process is a familiar one tivists who used violence. The logic of the move into politics by the What happens is that those using mainstream republicans is that they violence against the system are would come to condone the suppression of republican die-hards. But there is much unease in the republican camp, for all this is happening too soon for Sinn Fein.

> It wanted less emergency legislation, not more; it will worry that the new law might be used against some of its own people: it is watching the Royal Ulster Constabulary, which it wants disbanded, embedding itself in the new system.But their reservations, and those of people who worry about human rights, are being swept away in the wave of revulsion which followed the Omagh

bombing.
The new laws will go through, and defendants charged with Real IRA membership will be summarily dispatched to prison. In reality they are not going to be jailed merely on the word of a police officer, but by the will of two parliaments which represent the demand of their people that

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A new vision for absent fathers

fathers want to remain active players in their children's lives, but to date our culture and our policies have not encouraged this. The 1991 Child Support Act makes fathers financially responsible for their children but has had little to say about their role as caretakers and custodians of their children's future. Partly as a a consequence, many non-resident fathers feel excluded from their children's lives and cope with this by reneging on their child support payments or becoming increasingly distanced from their children, a process with adverse consequences

for the health of both parties. As the perverse effects of the Act come to the fore, pressure to increase child support collections will increase as attention turns to tackling child poverty and reducing financial costs to the state. We should anticipate the adoption of vigorous child support enforcement techniques such as . aggressive campaigns to establish paternity, revocation of drivers' licences for nonpayment of child support, and naming and shaming advert-

MANY NON-RESIDENT isements modelled on the American experience.

Pressures to reform the sys tern will also mount because of awareness in the policymaking community of the financial and emotional costs incurred when fathers are not present in the lives of their children. As boys continue to underperform in schools, attention is already turning to the causes of male under-achievement and to the impact of fathers' absence on boys. Measures aimed at streng

thening the des that bind conresident fathers to their children will rise to the top of the domestic policy agenda. Today's Government speaks the rhetoric of deadbeat dads and emphasises only the financial responsibilities of nonresident fathers; tomorrow's policy debate will emphasise fathers' nurturing responsibil-

ities as well. Pressure will mount for policy makers to develop "onestop shopping", a single point of access whereby everything related to the breaking up of a household - finance, access and issues related to parental visits - can be dealt with holistically, regardless of the mar-



PODIUM HELEN WILKINSON

From a speech made to the Commonwealth Fund by its Harkness Fellow

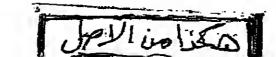
ital status of the couple concerned, Resources should also be directed to low-income nonresident fathers, through targeted weifare to work schemes, including personal and social skills training. At the same time, we should expect to see tougher rules for those. fathers who can pay, but won't pay. A number of American states are already experimenting with such approaches. If their experience is any-

thing to go by, tomorrow's "Fatherhood is a contact sport" policy-makers will be changing their own assumptions, bringand "Be a hero to your child. Pay child support". ing fathers into the family Popular culture has best equation in unprecedented ways. The direction of family

captured the emotional landscape of non-resident fathers. policy, which has historically The Hollywood mavie Mrs marginalised fathers and con-Doubtfire is emblematic of the centrated on the mother/child plight of many middle-class dyad, will have to be reframed, dads. In a clever inversion of the Victorian "guilty wife" who the emphasis as much on shiftreturns in disguise as a gov ing gender cultures within the erness to see her children, the bureaucracies, and the culture at large, as oo progmale character played hy Robin Williams is reduced to Policy-makers will need to dressing up in drag and masretain women's confidence. querading as a nanny as the Women who have had negative only means of gaining meanexperiences with their men

ingful access to his children. Closer to home, the workingclass hero of The Full Monty takes a job as a male stripper to pay his ex-girlfriend child support which will enable him to continue seeing his son. In the end he discovers a new masculinity by proving to his disgruntled ex that he can be

a responsible father. Here we see men rejecting cultural stereotypes, and find5 ing innovative ways of maintaining their relationships with their children. Policymakers should capitalise on these value with such catchy headlines as shifts in the future.



Act now to save our hedges



CHRISTOPHER BROCKLEBANK-**FOWLER**

Those of us who live in the country have seen 30 years of rural vandalism by farmers and councils

VISITORS TO the British country side, at this time of year, can be for-given for thinking that the rural idyl is alive and well. They may remark upon the post-harvest tidiness of the fields and roadsides with their newly mown verges and trimmed hedges. They may even take these suburban attributes as s sign that landowners. farmers and local authorities alike are playing their proper part in conserving, managing and safe-guarding for the future the rich diversity of our natural heritage.

If they do, they are very wrong. Those of us who live in the countryside know only too well that these are the latest signs of rural vandalism, perpetuated in the interest of mechanically efficient agricultural production without regard to their effect on the environment.

ment-

Ireland

The destruction or neglect and mismanagement of our ancient hedgerows over the last 30 years has led to a shocking loss of the historic, archaeological, landscape and amenity value of the environment, quite apart from Its seriously adverse effect on the more than 500 plant species and the wide range of animal life partly dependent on

hedgerows for habitat or food. A 1994 survey by the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology first revealed that in the previous 10 years more than 110,000 miles of hedgerow had been destroyed, and that further loss continued at the rate of 15,000 miles per annum. This finding led to the belated realisation by the last Conservative government that the subsidised annual loss of hedgerows at that rate was an unaccep price to pay for continuing agricultural expansion. The then government also realised, with remarkable perspicacity, you may think, that this was especially true, given that a nigh percentage of agricultural land was concurrently also being subsidised to be taken out of agricultural production under the setaside scheme, to reduce both over-production and the cost of storing unwanted grain surpluses.

Accordingly, the government in-troduced, in the 1995 Environment Act, powers enabling ministers in England and Wales to introduce regulations to prevent the removal or



The anc ient hedges of Devon nestle beneath the High Willhays, the highest point of Dartmoor

destruction of "important hedgerows". Parliament approved the Hedgerows Regulations 1997 in the last weeks of Conservative government, prior to the general election.

On taking office on May 1997, Michael Meacher, the new Labour Environment Minister, announced a review of the regulations by a group composed of representatives from the farming and conservation bodies, the utility companies, other statutory bodies, local authorities and government departments.

Their report, which has been published by the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions in the last few weeks, sets out the existing legislative framework, refines the definition of "important (ie, protected) hedgerows" and recommends further research to widen the scope of the regulations. However a major lacuna is the complete lack of provision in the regulations for ensuring that "important

hedges" are neither neglected nor mismanaged.

There is now overwhelming cumulative evidence, from the British Trust for Ornithology, the Bio-Diversity Action Plan, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and others, of significant declines in once common farm bird popu tions. For example, the RSPB has identified more than 130 bird species that use farmland, of which 28 species are largely dependent on lowland arable fields or field margins. Of these dependent species 88 per cent have shown severe declines, of between 41 per cent and 87 per cent, over the last 25 years. Apart from these, there is increasing concern that hedgerow mam-

The evidence also shows clearly that these losses are no longer solely the result of hedge destruction, but increasingly are the result

mals and plant species may also be

declining at alarming rates.

of hedgerow neglect or mismanbut also the fruition of all the gement. When I was a young farm pupil in the Fifties, it was common practice to trim the hedges and banks and clean the ditches by hand in February and March, at the time of year when these operations hedgerow fruits and seeds. Good husbandry and the best did no damage to the dormant

flail. The hand-held sickle is similarly replaced by the heavy rotary mower which flattens hedgerow banks and shaves into the soil. While mechanical damage in the winter months may be sustainable, unseasonable damage is not. Every rural hedge and every bank and roadside verge cut between the start of the growing season at the end of March and the end of the

farming year in January diminishes

or, more seriously, destroys, not only

nesting-sites and ground cover,

erows. Increased mechanis

tion has replaced the clean cut of

a hand-held hedging knife with the

indiscriminate action of the chain

hedgerow species, to the detriment of the domestic birds and animals and the over-wintering migratory birds that depend for their survival on the availability of

ractices of hedgerow mana rement have been known and understood by generations of British farmers and landowners and are still practised on the best farms and country estates. The new hedgerow regulations should make these practices ohligatory for all "important hedgerows". Winter hedge-cutting and bank-mowing should be standard practice for all those responsible for "important hedgerows". However, local authorities could be given the right to grant exclusion orders in those circumstances where heavy or wet ground conditions, for example, render mechanical cutting impracticable.

The countryside lobby would gain considerable kudos and increased respect for its claim to look after the countryside if the National Farmers Union and the Country

Landowners Association were to take the lead in negotiating with the Government to develop new hedgerow management regulations, perhaps with some built-in incentives to offset additional costs, instead of defending the status quo and thus contributing to the further diminution of the rural environment.

Tim Cuff/Apex

I am sure that such a constructive and transparent commitment to the future of the countryside would be enormously well received, not only by all the rural conservation hodies and by the Government; it would also give the Government a perfect opportunity to respond to the countryside lohhy's reasonable request to "Listen to Us".

RIGHT OF REPLY

COMMENT/5

LORD **PARKINSON**



The chairman of the Conservative Party replies to Monday's criticism by Anne McElvoy

SOME PEOPLE try to work out which electoral system would suit their party best and then argue that it is "fairer". On Monday, Anne McElvoy claimed that PR would harm the Conservative Party's electoral fortunes, Others have suggested to me that PR would speed up our recovery in Scotland and Wales.

This is not the way to debate fundamental constitutional change. The rules of the game should not be fixed in favour of one side or the other. We must put the national, not the party, interest first.

That is why we will be joining members of all parties and of none to oppose PR. I welcome the evidence from Labour's NEC to the Jenkins Commission that argued against PR. I am delighted that one of the largest unions, the AEEU, has announced funding for a "No" campaign. I am glad that at least 100 Labour MPs oppose change.

We share a common belief - that in a democracy, the people must be able to choose the government. This is not the case under PR, where parties spend weeks stitching together deals after the people have voted.

Independent research suggests that our electoral system is more proportional than any form of PR. The proportion of votes a party gets determines the proportion of time it spends in power.

Politicians choose who is in power under PR. This cannot be right. Yes, any party that commands widespread support is a coalition. But it decides its policies before the election, presenting it manifesto to the electorate for their approval.

The people, not the politicians, have the final say under our system. That is why we are preparing to campaign hard against PR in the forthcoming referendum. Nothing less than the people's votes are at stake.

Home on the rolling deep

IF C S FORESTER was the Navy's Mozart, Patrick O'Brian is its Beethoven. Better or worse are irrelevant comparatives. Nor is there any need to deprive oneself of the pleasure of the latter out of a misplaced loyalty to the former. Certainly, the dozens of British and American admirals, ambassadors, novelists, musicians and secret service agents who recently toasted O'Brian at a 370-strong celebration dinner in the Painted Hall at Greenwich saw no reason to qualify their adulation.

O'Brian's hugely celebrated epic of the British Navy between 1800 and 1815 has hrought together perhaps the most unlikely combination of admirers in the annals of reading. At the dinner, William Waldegrave compared him to Homer, Mark Knopfler rubbed shoulders with the beads of MI5 and MI6, Danielle Steele and Rose Tremain tapped feet to the Beating of the Retreat. Go into any bookshop come publication day and the queue panting for their copy of *The Hundred* Days will include young and old, male and female, dreamers and sportsmen, philosophers

and explorers. Some have grown up with O'Brian - the first in the series was written in 1970. Others, myself included, came upon him more recently and read them in a tidal wave of energy. Most have returned to read them all through again. What we're talkling about with a new O'Brian is a kind of Father Christmas letter about a much-loved and ever-growing family of characters in an unerringly authentic and gloriously patriotic setting. High endeavours alternate with



WEDNESDAY BOOK

THE HUNDRED DAYS BY PATRICK O'BRIAN, HARPERCOLLINS, £16.99

everyday grinds, subtle dilem-mas with love affairs, tragedy with comedy. Why wouldn't we But if you are an O'Brian vir-

gin, beware of trying to jump aboard in mid-voyage. The Hundred Days is better described as the 19th chapter than the 19th book in his 6,300page long series. Although its publishers insist that it can stand alone, to start here would be like listening to a cello with thousands of fans absorb the

BY TAMAR YOSELOFF

all liquid, like a fish. I can't understand

what gives this extra lift to my step, as if I'm floating,

and the cars drifting through Clerkenwell Green

are barges carrying sailors home from sea.

But an undercurrent sinks me at Islington:

I sense the bones of the old prison, the plague-dead

dumped straight from their beds, butchers' scraps

staining the water blood red. The old dark brick

shifts, the city groans in its foundations

and spits me out like a sour grape into the street.

This poem comes from Tamar Yoseloff's first

full-length collection 'Sweetheart', published

by Slow Dancer Press (£6.99)

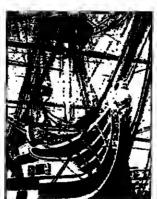
a duster stuffed in its soundmost unjust literary shock box. You will miss the echoes since Part VI of Jude the Oband resonances, the variations scure. Go and buy the first in the series (Master and Comon a host of themes, that mander) and leave me to comstretch back through the last 18 miserate with the converted. books. Worst of all, you will fail to understand why, on arrival at How can I soften the blow page four of The Hundred (the nature of which I have no Days, there will be all over the

intention of revealing, although O'Brian world great wailing crasser critics will do so)? I could tell you that it is, for all and gnashing of teeth, and a general donning of sackcloth that initial shock, worth readand ashes, as his hundreds of ing on. That we are back in the vessel Surprise and in the Mediterranean. That this is a much meatier book than The Yellow Admiral. That Aubrey WEDNESDAY POEM fights some splendid actions and teeters between glory and ruin, That Maturin almost meets his match among the wily Arabs, but also adds to his It flows beneath my feet, its subterranean banks formidable collection of naturunseen. I glide blissfully through my day,

promise in the book's sunset of a new dawn. And finally, having lured you thus far, I can, sadly, promise that its recurring leitmotif is

of deep, deep grief in literature. a CD of Musical Evenings with the Captain (Morr Music, 13 Bank Square, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 1AN), a compilation of the sort of pieces that Aubrey and Maturin played together in their cabin, complete with an essay by the Master on the music in ordinary people's lives at the time? Or you could

one of the subtlest sketchings



The bows of HMS Victory

get stuck into recipes for Drowned Baby, Archipel Flot-tant and Soused Hog's Face from Anne Chotzinoff Grossman and Liza Grossman Thomas's Lobscouse and Spotted Dog, "Which is a Gastronomic Companion to the Aubrey/Maturin novels" (Norton). Never mind "first catch your hare", we're talking syl-labubs in which you milk the cow into the bowl and fritters made from the swordfish which al phenomena. That there is happened to pierce the Truelove's hull.

Or you could buy the recently reprinted The Golden Ocean and The Unknown Shore (both HarperCollins), the first two books O'Brian wrote. Both about Anson's circum-Now for comfits. How about navigation of the world in 1740. they star a couple of midshipmen who, by all accounts, bear a striking resemblance to Aubrey and Maturin in youth Or you could go down to "Woolcombe, or Woolhampton as some say", and leave a bunch of lilies at Maiden Oscott bridge.

CHRISTENA HARDYMENT

ur eyes have been described as the windows to the soul'. While this sounds poetic, the truth is they are certainly worth looking after. Visionace" from Vitabiorics is a unique

research based combination to help maintain healthy eyes and vision. It has been tested over several years by a University Department of Vision Science, and Visionace" is recommended by leading UK optometrists and eye care specialists.

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Liam de Paor

THE HISTORIAN and political thinker Liam de Paor was a radical, in the sense that he grew and changed direction. It was therefore not wholly surprising that coverage of his death in the Irish Times gave three distinct accounts of him. The first stressed de Paor's originality as a political thinker, his preference for Irish independence over Irish unity. The second dwelt on his commitment to Gaelic culture. The third, by a professional archaeologist, mixed tributes to de Paor's scholarship with heart-felt acknowledgements of his humility

De Paor's immediate family background lay in east Munster. His father, who worked for the railways in pre-independent Ireland, found himself beached in Dublin at the time of the Easter Rising. He stayed on, married and started a family. Liam was born 10 years later, in 1926, the year in which Sean O'Casey's The Plough and the Stars outraged citizens of the new state with its irreverent, tragi-comic view of na-tionalist politics. This was a fitting moment for Liam de Paor to slip on to the stage of left-wing affairs.

De Paor's emergence as a political thinker was slow. He trained initially as an architect in University College, Dublin. His contemporaries included Liam Miller (another architect who changed course to pioneer literary publishing in post-war Ireland), Anthony Cronin (a barrister, hut best known as a writer), and Charles J. Haughey (an accountant turned politician). Chang-ing direction signified much for this generation.

Partly at least through the influ-ence of his first wife, Maire Mc-Dermott (an art historian who came from Ulster), de Paor abandoned architecture for archaeology. His knowledge of buildings as things to be designed and built in the present greatly assisted his work on the surviving structures of antiquity. Their joint work, Early Christian Ireland (1958), published in the Thames

ed, contributed to the growth of pub-lic awareness in early Irish history and a culture which in turn pro-lic awareness in early Irish history and a culture which in turn profoundly affected issues of ethnicity and identity in the troubled decades to come. These issues in turn preoccupied him, not so much for their alleged weighty substance as for the dark shadows they cast as ideological concepts today. De Paor was no stay-at-Home-

Rule academic. He worked in 1945 as a draughtsman in the stainedglass studios of the Irish artist Harry Clarke, and in the Sixties served Unesco in Nepal as an advisor. During his years on the staff of University College, Dublin (1965-86), he lectured in American History as well as his own more obvious specialisms. He was an eloquent and charming speaker of Gaelic, who participated regularly in those learned Bacchanalian summer schools dedicated to the memory of the Gaelic poet Brian Merriman (fl. 1780). One of de Paor's last publications was an English-language translation (published earlier this year in the journal Times Change) of a lecture he had first given at Merriman in Gaelic. De Paor was well known as an ex-

cavating archaeologist. Indeed, he was "on a dig" in the Midlands when the news broke of serious trouhle in Ulster in 1969. His immediate response was to volunteer in giving istance in whatever way he could to the expected flow of refugees from the Catholic quarters of Belfast. In the course of heady consultations, be was asked if his professional travels abroad might provide cover for an importation of arms. His firm answer was in the negative, not only - as he repeated the matter to me last year because he did not believe arms would help the situation at that time, but because he profoundly distrusted the persons in Fianna Fail who made the suggestion. On television only a few years ago, he

made this episode public. His more lasting response to the recurrence of violence in 1969 was Divided Ulster (1970), commis-

sentially a historical study, it indicates clearly its author's acute political sense. De Paor had joined the Labour Party before the fashionable influx of seeming leftwingers - Conor Cruise O'Brien, David Thornley and Justin Keating - who swept it into a coalition government with Fine Gael in 1973. De Paor attended meetings of the Sean Connolly Branch in Dublin's southeast constituency, an eccentric co-

terie not least in its choice of venue

De Paor was political thinker, historian, Gaelic speaker, professional archaeologist, but no stay-at-Home-Rule academic

- a café of the vegetarian tendency frequented by the novelist Christine, Lady Longford, the Baha'i actor O.Z. Whitehead and sundry Trotskyites (and the inevitable Special Branch following of the latter). At all times, de Paor remained a rock of sense when Labour members met these luminaries after party meetings, courteous, insistent on procedure and principle, quietly mischievous.

Even when the Fine Gael changed leader and Garret FitzGerald initiated a Social Democratic renewal of his party, de Paor continued to oppose coalition as an option for Labour. His interests were so diverse that few thought of him as a political thinker, though he was sought after as a commentator, A column,

"Roots", published in the Irish Times, provided an opportunity not only for him to broadcast his opinions but also to test and modify them.

After he retired from the UCD in 1986, de Paor spent much time in America. He separated from his first wife and after her death in 1994 married Deirdre Glenn. Few of the many friends who called to their flat in Dartry realised that he trad passed the three-score-and-ten; he continued to work incessantly, publishing new material on St Patrick and on contemporary politics.

A book of 1990 summarises in its very name the loss felt by many in Ireland and elsewhere when on the day of the Omagh bombing, de Paor was cremated in Dublin - Unfinished Business. Ten years earlier, the title would have been glossed as a Republican manifesto. However, de Paor's evolving political thought radically challenged the dogmas of Irish Republicanism, especially the easy assumption that differences were mergeable in some comprehensive notion of Irishness. Though he remained faithful to the Labour Party, his influence was discernible in Democratic Left (In whose journal he published his last article) and even in Fine Gael, for whom he never held out much hope.

Liam de Paor will not be remembered as part of some professional cadre of Irish political scientists. As a passionate dissident his name will he found amoog names more lovingly honoured than loudly celebrated. In the company of Fred Ryan, Louise Bennett, Father Francis Shaw and Jimmy Kemmy. Liam de Paor will feel at home, having earned his eternal rest. There will be lively talk, and not a dry tongue in the heavenly mansions.

W. J. MC CORMACK

Liam de Paor, nrchaeologist, historian and political scientist: born Dublin 13 April 1926; married 1955 Mntre MacDermott (died 1994; four sons, one daughter), 1997 Deirdre Glenn (one son); died

Air Marshal Sir Christopher Hartley

WHEN THE services competed for defence funds at the height of the Cold War in the early 1960s, and admirals and air marshals practically came to hlows over rival claims for more aircraft carriers or more V-bombers, Christopher Hartley was at the centre of the arguments; for as Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (ACAS) from 1961, with responsibility for operational requirements, and then as Deputy Chief of the Air Staff (DCAS) from 1963, he had an overview of future RAF needs for its strategic and tactical capabilities.

His terms of office in these posts covered some major decisions over the V-bomber force (particularly its low-level role after the cancellation of Skybolt missiles) and TSR-2, leading him to the latter case to criticise the competence of the Ministry of Aviation to manage a major project.

After a Labour administration came to power in the autumn of 1964 and signalled their intentions to cancel the supersonic Harrier, the HS681 STOL transport and TSR-2. Hartley led a team to the United States to look at alternative types and report to the Minister of Defence (Deois Healey); and on their recommendations were based the subsequent purchases of Phantoms

With his service experience of planning future equipment, Hartley was a natural choice for the secondment post of Controller of Aircraft at the Ministry of Aviation twhich became the Ministry of Technology) from 1966, serving there until his retirement in 1970 and having an overview of both civil and military projects. He was particularly involved in the complex internation-

al Concorde programme. As a consequence of these highlevel contacts, appointments at hoard-room level followed his retirement in 1970 from his service career - with FPT Industries. Saunders-Roe Developments, Westland Engineers, Westland Technologies and Westland Aircraft, and the British Hovercraft Corporation, of which he was chairman from 1974 to 1978.

Born in 1913. Hartley had his first flying experience when he joined Oxford University Air Squadron in 1934, and in those pre-war years he served on three university expeditioos, to Sarawak, Spitsbergen and Greenland. He was tall and strong and at his happiest in outdoor pursuits like fishing, shooting, mountaineering and sailing.

When war came he was a science master at Eton, where he had been educated as a boy, representing the college at rugby and rowing, and from where he went up to Balliol as an Exhibitioner. After being called up for service he initially flew with No 5, 6 and 7 Bombing and Gunnery

at No 2 SFTS. He then went into night fighter operations: his first squadron was No 604 (County of Middlesex), before hecoming a flight commander with No 256.

During 1943, at the Flying Instructor Unit at Ford, he served as fighter controller and then commanding officer. For his part in the operational trials of the first Ju-88 night fighter to fall into RAF hands he was awarded the AFC, then in 1945 won the DFC.

His post-war career was determined when he gained a permanent commission in September 1945, and two attachments to the Staff College at Bracknell - on No 17 (W) Staff Course and in 1949-50 as a member of the Directing Staff - were interspersed with his first tour at the Air Ministry, on intelligence duties.

Hartley achieved his first senior est when appointed to command RAF Wahn in 2nd TAF in 1951. He then became Deputy Director of Operations (Guided Weapons) at No 61 Group, attended the Nato Special Weapons Senior Officers Course and was subsequently appointed Sector Commander, Eastern Sector He served as Senior Air Staff Officer at No 12 Group, and from there went to his first senior Air Ministry appointment - as ACAS (Operational Requirements) - in

HUMPHREY WYNN



Christopher Harold Hartley, nir force officer: born Oxford 31 January 1913: AFC 1944: DFC 1945; OBE 1949: Assistant Chief of Air Staff (Operational Requirements) 1961; CB 1961, KCB 1963; Deputy Chief of Air Staff 1963-66; Con-troller of Aircraft, Ministry of Aviation and Ministry of Technology 1966-70; director, Westland Aircraft Ltd 1971-83; married 1937 Anne Situell (marriage dissolved 1943), 1944 Mnrgaret Watson (died 1989; two sons); died Oxford 29 July 1998.

Lewis Franklin Powell Jnr

LEWIS FRANKLIN Powell was a largely unsung member of the US Supreme Court, a southerner of the old school and a learned jurist, rarely in the contentious limelight of great legal argument, but someone who could play a pivotal role in the formulation of some of the court's most important rulings of

He served as an associate justice for 15 years until his retirement in 1987 at the age of 80 and was instrumental in at least two landmark decisions. One was the 1978 Bakke case, in which he wrote the majority opinion in the 5-4 ruling which first upheld the concept of affirmative action, the doctrine which accepts minorities require special help to overcome discrimination. Earlier he had spoken for the court in its decision, also by a 5-4 vote, which declared that a President had "absolute immunity" from being sued for monetary damages for any misconduct

which was part of his official duties. The case in question - almost inevitably-involved Richard Nixon, the very President who in 1971 had asked a reluctant Powell to take a seat on the court, three years before he would be forced in disgrace from the White House. If pressed, Powell would describe himself as a conservative, but he always took pains to steer clear of ideology. At the end of his service, his fellow justices paid tribute to him for his "extraordinary

"without ever allowing advocacy to

degenerate into contentiousness. The style reflected the upbringing of a scion of the old Commonwealth of Virginia, a graduate of Washington and Lee University in Lexington, and then of Harvard Law School. Before joining the high court, Powell spent 40 years at the venerable Richmond law firm of Hunton, Williams, Gay, Powell and Gibson, where he hecame a partner in 1938.

During that time he served as both president of the American Bar Foundation and of the US lawyers organisation, the American Bar Association, as well as a member of a Presidential panel examining the functioning of the Defence Department.

The last appointment was no accident. Powell had joined the army in 1942 and spent four years in the military. They included 32 months as an intelligence officer in Europe, mostly a stint in top secret work of Bletchley breaking Nazi war codes, as a member of a unit whose very existence was not revealed until 1974.

If there was a blemish on his career, it was his decisive vote in a 1985 case that ruled consenting adults did not enjoy a constitutional right to private homosexual acts. Times were perhaps moving faster than an old judge would like. His opinion, he later conceded, was "probably a mistake."

Otherwise Powell was universally admired. He was a tall and siender



man of great courtliness yet quiet perseverance, a scholar who shunned self-advertisement. "The gentleness and gallantry of the old South are gathered in the person of Lewis Powell," the New York Times wrote.

RIPERT CORNWELL

Lewis Franklin Powell, lawyer: born Suffolk, Virginia 19 September 1907: Associate Justice US Supreme Court 1972-87; married 1936 Josephine Rucker tone son three daughters); died Richmond. Virginia 25 August 1998.

Arturo Toscanini in 1927 with his wife, Carla, left, and daughter Wanda sailing to the United States in 1927. Wanda married Vladimir Horowitz six years later

Wanda Toscanini Horowitz

BEING THE daughter of Arturo married Vladimir Horowitz, then Horowitz would, one imagines, condemn a woman to a life in the public eye. Yet Wanda Horowitz's no-nonsense approach to the world managed both to shield her hushand from the intrusions of an importunate press and to turn the glare of attention away from her remember I went home and said,

She was born in Milan in 1907, the youngest of Toscanini's four children Her own musical ambitions - as pianist and singer - were drowned by her father's intolerant perfectionism: she couldn't practise when he was within earshot, since "a mistake was like a stab in his stomach", and so she helped her mother look after the capricious, self-centred conductor.

This early training in the technique of coping with superstars Lebrecht Collection came into its own when in 1933 she

Toscanini and the wife of Vladimir 29 and well on the way to acquiring the label of "world's greatest pi-anist". She was instantly attracted to him, both physically and intellectually: "In the first place he was good-looking," she later recalled, "And his playing! I heard him play in a house after a concert . . . I

own role in one of the most 'I never heard anyone play a newsworthy of musical families. "They were married in the same year, and her 55-year-long career as minder of a deeply insecure musician had

> The relationship was not easy. Horowitz's homosexuality cannot have belped. Their only child, Sonia, was born early in the marriage and led a troubled life, not least because of the relative indifference of her father, she died at the age of 40 in 1974. as the result of injuries sustained in

a motor-cycle accident. It was hardly surprising that bags, examined the hotel rooms,

Horowitz and his wife separated in 1949 - but briefly as it turned out. His lack of conviction in his own abilities - so unsettling that for 12 years this most gifted of pianists was certain he would never play again - needed the bulwark of her self-confidence. When Horowitz died, on 5 November 1989, Leonard Bernstein paid tribute to her "long years of devotion to this amazing man". Horowitz was, he said "not only a super-planist but a super-musician with all the mental fallibilities such geniuses have. You cared for him and guarded him through a series of neurotic ni, I didn't have any merit hecause

Indeed, Wanda Horowitz was the backbone her sensitive husband could not generate on his own. When he took to the plano again after his long silence, she packed his

understand; and you returned him

to us time and again, refreshed,

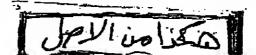
renewed and ever greater."

supervised the food, screened telephone calls, argued with managers. stood firm against record companies, often using considerable musical judgement of her own.

That tough exterior was not simply a protective ploy: her scowl was egendary, and she inherited her father's temper. "My father made me neurotic and my husband made me crazy," she snapped at one reporter who asked about the two men in her life. But she summed up her own achievement with quiet satisfaction: "To be the daughter of Toscanicrises the world may never know nor I could have been born to anybody. But to be the wife of Horowitz, in that I take a little hit of pride."

MARTIN ANDERSON

Wanda Giorgina Toscanini: born Milan, Italy 5 December 1907; married 1933 Vladimir Horowitz (died 1989; one daughter deceased); died New York 21 August 1998.



Oleg Prokofiev

THE SON of the composer Sergei Prokofiev, Oleg Prokofiev was in his own right an artist, painter, sculptor and poet, a cultivated man with a lively interest in every form of artistic expression. He was a passionate and knowledgeable promoter of his father'a music, a devoted father and a faithful He had a touching and infectious en-

THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW

The Independent 26 August 1998

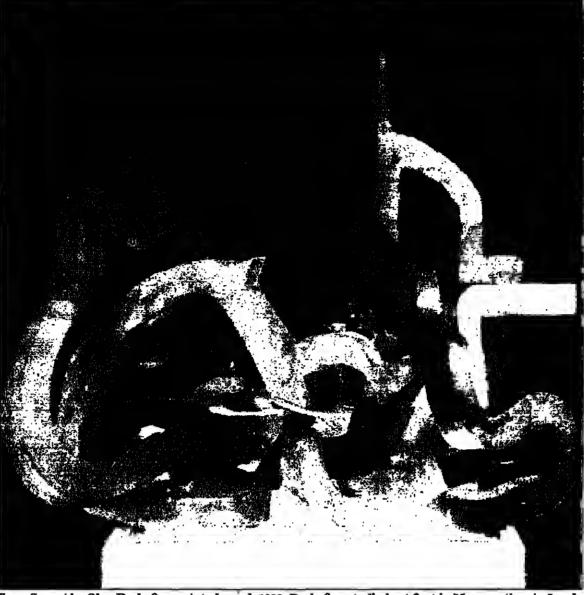
thusiasm for the new. Yet his life had not been straightforward, and he went through a series of personal tragedies and losses. The second son of Sergei Prokofiev and the singer Lina Codina. he was born in Paris in 1928. He and his elder brother, Sviatoslav, were often separated from their parents who spent long periods touring the Western world and, increasingly often, Russia. When in 1936 Prokofiev pere decided to settle back in Moscow, he took his

family to a country already in the grip of Stalin's purges. The following years were sombre; Sergei Prokofiev soon left his wife who, unlike him, went through the war years in Moscow, alone with her two sons. In 1948, Lina was arrested by the KGB and sent to Siberia for eight years, so that ber sons were left to fend for themselves. In spite of these difficulties, Oleg was highly stimulated by the artistic environment he lived in, and he studied art at the Moscow School of Art from 1944 to 1947.

After a first unsuccessful marriage, he met and married a young British art historian, Camilla Gray, who would later on write a ground-breaking study of Russian avant-garde art, The Great Experiment: Russian art, 1863-1922 (1962). Tragically, Camilla died after a short illness while pregnant with their second child. Allowed by the Soviet authorities to bring his daughter Anastasia to England, Oleg Prokofiev settled first in Leeds, where he was awarded a fellowship in the Fine Arts Department of Leeds University (from 1972 to 1974) and where he met his third wife, Frances Child, Oleg and Frances had five children, one of whom, their second son Quentin, died of leukaemia while still a young boy.

In spite of these terrible upheavals and even though the legacy left him by his father forced him to relive and recall the past over and over again, Oleg Prokofiev looked and moved forward. Over the past 20 years, he successfully struck a balance in his own life, making his name as an artist, while dedicating a considerable part of his time too to his father's music. The old signature on his paintings, "O. Prokofiev", gave way to "Oleg". He exhibited his wood sculptures and paintings in a number of countries and, most significantly for him, in Moscow last winter. His style was constantly evolving, as a response to the new shapes and lights he discovered in his many journeys to America, Africa and, most recently, India. Some of his poems have also been published.

At the same time, he became increasingly involved in the promotion of his father's work and life, and it is in this capacity that I best knew him. As the curator of the Prokofiev Archive at would always make time for anyone Goldsmiths' College in London, I was guided, supported and inspired by his profound knowledge of Sergei Prokofiev's music, and also that of musical life in Soviet Russia.



Town Sunset by Oleg Prokofiev, painted wood, 1992. Prokofiev studied art first in Moscow, then in Leeds



music. I shall never forget the fasci-

nating presentation he gave at Gold-

smiths' in a lecture room packed with

name as an artist, while dedicating a considerable part of his time to his father's music. He packed a lecture-room for more than two hours alternating recollections and critical argument with impersonations of his father and Shostakovich

He struck a balance in his life, making his

He often appeared on television and than two hours, recollections and crit- a great number of Russian artists in this radio, the last time being on Radio 3 lical arguments alternated with hufor the performance of his father's morous impersonations of Prokofiev Cantata for the Twentieth Anniversary and Shostakovich. of the October Revolution at this

On another occasion I invited him to year's Proms. It was bowever behind the Prokofiev Archive to sign copies of the scenes that he was most active. He a book be had translated and edited in kept a huge correspondence with 1991, Sergei Prokofien, Soviet Diary artists, musicologists, performers and 1927. For three hours, he spoke to unfilm directors working on Prokofiev dergraduates, postgraduates and lecturers alike, inspiring and delighting and Soviet music. Deeply modest, he them with his testimony, enthusiasm genuinely interested in his father's and accessibility.

Just as his father had spent years of his émigré life promoting the music of many contemporary Soviet composers, first-year undergraduates. For more Oleg Prokofiev helped and patronised Islands 20 August 1998.

country, "He was a man I saw little of said one young Russian artist to me, "but every time we met, be gave a new dimension to my life over here, to the life of so many creative people."

NOELLE MANN

Oleg Sergevich Prokofiev, painter and sculptor: born Paris 14 December 1928; married first Sofia Koravina (one son; marriage dissolved), 1969 Camilla Gray (died 1971; one daughter), 1974 Frances Child (two sons, two daughters, and one son deceased); died Alderney, Channel

PHILOSOPHICAL NOTES

Did Columbus 'discover' America?

"IS THERE such a thing as 'the truth'?" It would be foolish to claim that philosophy had definitively answered this most difficult and intractable of questions. But just a little philosophical reflection can help us to avoid the terrible muddles even intelligent, educated people get into when they talk about truth. Consider how the Professor of English Terry Hawkes replied to that same question on the radio

[The] idea that there's a single truth out there to which we have some immediate access is an illusion, it's a defusion. We know that somebody called Columbus set foot in North America in 1492, but is it true to say that he discovered North America? I think that if you were a native American who was streety living them would be people by home with aiready living there you'd probably have quite a different story to tell.

Hawkes was defending a view which was once seen as shocking, but is now de rigueur: that there is no one single truth and that what is true for one person may not be true for another. In other words,

You don't need to commit yourself to any of the major philosophical theories of truth (correspondence, coherence, pragmatic and so on) to see the difficulties in Hawkes's argument, and by proxy in the received wisdom about truth and relativism. Given his conclusion, it is surprising that Hawkes actually states that something is true: Columbus set foot in North America in 1492. Obviously, to say it is true is not to say it is beyond dispute. But, even if it turned out Columbus arrived in 1493, it cannot be true that Columbus both did and did not set foot in North America in 1492, unless "set foot in" contains some ambiguity. Either way, there is some truth in the matter.

Given that Hawkes seems to acknowledge that there are some objective truths, what does all he says about "discovering" show? All it demonstrates is that some words in some contexts are vague, ambiguous or misleading. It is accurate to say that the statement "Columbus Discovered America" seemed true to the Europeans and false to the indigenous peoples of the Americas. But you cannot jump from the obvious fact that people believe contradictory things to be true to the conclusion that contradictory things are or can be true. For instance,



there was a time wben many people believed that the world was flat, while others believed that it was a sphere. Obviously it cannot be the case that the world is both flat and a sphere at the same time. The fact that people held different beliefs about the shape of the world tells us nothing at all about what is true of the world.

What is more, if you actually asked Europeans and indigenous Americans what they meant by their assertion or denial of Columbus's "discovery", they would provide totally compatible answers that there were people who lived in the Americas before Columbus got there, but that Columbus was the first European to land there. No competing "truths" here.

Of course, there are more serious and profound arguments for the idea of the relativity of truth. But, unfortunately, it is this sloppy version of relativism which has captured the popular imagination, and it just won't wash. As a further example, last year a survey showed that people who believed that "what is true for me may not be true for you" were more likely to admit telling lies. But even to recognise that one has told a lie one has to acknowledge the difference between truth and falsehood. It seems no one can affirm their belief in the relativity of truth without implicitly undermining it in their next breath.

Dr Julian Baggini is editor of the quarterly 'The Philosophers' Magazine', an issue of which is due out next week (www.philosophers.co.uk)

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

BIRTHS

HANSOM: On 23 August 1998, to Marie-Pierre and Tom, a daugh-ter, Olivia Marie Ellen.

DEATHS

GRIEVE: On 22 August 1998, at Marseilles, France, after a short illness bravely borne, William Percival (Percy) Grieve QC, aged 83, husband of the late Evelyn Raymonde Louise Grieve. Much loved and missed by his son Dominic, grandsons James and Hugo and danghterin-law Caroline. Funeral at St. Clement's Church, Fulham Palace Road, SW6, on Friday 4 September at 11am, followed by private committal at Putney Vale Crematorium. Flowers to J.H. Kenyon, 49 Martoes Road, Kensington. W8 6LA, telephone 0171-937 0757. A Memorial Service will be held later. Any enquiries to 0181-761 0751.

PROKOFIEV: Oleg, suddenly but peacefully, on 20 August, while on hobiday with his family. Husband to Frances, and father of Seriojha, Anastasia, Gabriel, Cordelia, Beatrice and Rupert (and of Quentin, who died in 1982). Funeral details, 0181-692 2014. Family flowers only please, but donations would be welcome, to A-T Society, c/o Francis Chappell, 4 Lee High Road, London SE13 5LQ, telephone 0181-852 2936.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, WARRIAGES & DEATHS are charged at £8.50 a line (VAT extra).

MARRIAGES

Mr C. M. Arthur and Miss P. S. J. Moyes The marriage took place on Saturday 18 July, at St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, between Charles Arthur and Jojo Moyes. Canon John Oates conducted tha service. A reception was held afterwards at the Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly.

BIRTHDAYS

Mr H.W. "Bunny" Austin, former tennis player, 92; Sir Kenneth Barnes, former senior civil servant, 76; The Right Rev Alan Chesters. Bishop of Blackburn, 61; Mrs Joan Clanchy, former Headmistress, North London Collegiate School, 59; Mr Howard Clark, golfer, 44; Mr Michael Cockerell, television reporter, 58; Mr Richard Dales, former High Commissioner to Zimbabwe, 56; Mr Peter Fowler, former High Commissioner to Bangiadesh, 62; Sir Anthony Garrett, former deputy Master and Comptroller, the Royal Mint, 70; Mr Stuart Graham, former chairman, International Commodities Clearing House, 77; Mr Tim

Maby, radio news reporter

and presenter, 51; Sir Ian

McGregor, former Visiting

Professor, Liverpool School

of Tropical Medicine, 76; Mr

David Martin, MEP, 44; Mr

Malcolm Pyrah, show jumper, 57; Miss Alison Steadman, actress, 52; Mr Dennis Turner MP, 56; Professor John Varey, former Principal, Westfield College, 76; Mr Dave Watts MP, 47; The Right Rev Maurice Wood, former Bishop of Norwich, 82; Mr Steve Wright, disc jockey, 44.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Sir Robert Walpole. Earl of Orford, statesman. 1676; Joseph-Michel Mont-The Duke of Gloucester. 54; golfier, balloonist, 1740: Joseph Christoph Kessler (Kōtzler), pianist and composer, 1800; Prince Albert, Consort to Queen Victoria, 1819; Lee De Forest, radio and television inventor, 1873; John Buchan, first Baron Tweedsmuir, Governor-General of Canada and povelist, 1875; Guillaume Apollinaire (Wilhelm Apollinaris de Kostrowitsky), poet, 1880; Jules Romains (Louis-Henri Jean Farigoule). novelist, playwright and poet, 1885; Christopher William Bradshaw Isherwood novelist 1904.

> Deaths: Ottakar II, King of Bohemia, killed in battle 1278; Frans Hals, painter, 1666; Louis-Philippe, "Citizen King" of France, 1850; Hermann Goldschmidt, painter and astronomer, 1866; Baron Hendrik Leys, painter, 1869; Karl Wilhelm, choral director

and composer of Die Wacht am Rhein, 1873; George Manville Fenn, novelist, 1909; William James, psychologist and philosopher, 1910; Lon (Alonso) Chaney, actor, 1930; Frank (James Thomas) Harris, editor and writer, 1931;

Ralph Vaughan Williams, composer, 1958; Naomi Ellington Jacob, novelist, 1964; Sir Francis Charles Chichester, aviator and yachtsman, 1972; Charles Augustus Lindbergh, pioneer aviator, 1974; Charles Boyer, actor, 1978. Infirmary.

On this day: Julius Caesar landed in Britain, 55 BC; King Edward III, aided by the Black Prince, his son, defeated the French at the Battle of Crecy, 1346; Mendelssohn's oratorio Elijah was first performed, Birmingham Festival, 1846; Krakatoa, the island volcano, began erupting, killing over 36,000 people, 1883; under the 19th Amendment women in the United States were granted the right to vote, 1920; the Anglo-Egyptian alliance was signed, 1936; the XXth Olympic Games opened in Munich, , 72; Cardinal Albino Luciani was elected

Today is the Feast Day of St Bregwine, archbishop of Canterbury, St Elizabeth Bichier des Ages, St Herluin, St John Wall, St Mary Desmaisières, St Pandonia and St Teresa Jornet Thars.

Pope John Paul I, 1978.

ROYAL **ENGAGEMENTS**

The Princess Royal opens a showroom at the Royal Aberdeen Workshops for the Blind and Disabled at Tullos, Aberdeen; as Patron, Northern Lighthouse Board, visits Girdle Ness Lighthouse, Aberdeen; and opens the Aberdeen North Centre for Haematology, Oncology and Radiotherapy at the Aberdeen Royal

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, IIam.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Colin Wiggins, "Venice (iv): Tintoretto", Ipm. Victoria and Albert Mus Ming Wilson, "Chinese Enamelled Ceramics", 2pm. Tate Gallery: Stuart Currie, "Georges Braque and the Mysterious Interior Space",

APPOINTMENTS

Mr Richard Vernon Michael Hall, to be a district judge, on the North Eastern Circuit.

Fully insulated against the Price of Fame

YOU CAN prod Mick Jagger in all the right places, but there does not seem to be a neurotic impulse in his soul. What will happen, for instance, if nobody goes out and huys his new LP?

"Oh well, it's nice if they buy a lot. If they buy a medium amount it's quite nice, if they don't buy it at all, it's very disappointing." He unleashes a particularly disarming beam. "I dunno, it's a bit of a silly question, really." Thanks a bunch, your

Imperial Highness. "But it is! It hasn't hap ened, so come back to me when it does and I'll tell you. I'll cross that bridge when I come to it. There's no point asking me about it now."

Worrying does not come naturally to Jagger. First, he does not appear worried that his floppy green jumper and baggy blue trousers make him look like an out-of-work fringe theatre extra. Second, he does not seem bothered that he has turned up three-quarters of an hour late. And third, it, concerns him not one bit that his entire life is rooted in his command of vast amounts of attention - a situation which can damage the equilibrium of even quite sensible burnan beings by its presence, or, conversely, sudden

Yet while all the other instant icons of the Sixties are either six feet under or carrying great quantities of scar tissue around, Mick Jagger looks thin and fit and lolls on a chair in his Chelsea office, replete with an enviable and perfectly matterof-fact self-esteem. Forty-four years old, and apparently fully insulated against paying the Price of Fame. If people still

SURELY ONE of the ugliest

words ever to slither its

way into our dictionaries,

humongous, or humungous,

began life in the US around

1970 and has proved

silly and affected synonym

serves no purpose not cov-

ered by those words and is

absence.

THE INDEPENDENT ARCHIVE 26 AUGUST 1987

Worrying does not come naturally to Mick Jagger. Dave Hill interviews the 44vear-old Rolling Stone about his new album, 'Primitive Cool'

exist who long to touch the hem of his garments, so what? It is just one of those things.

"I don't have that feeling for anyone, right? Do I find it absurd?" A pause for thought. "I find it a little bit . . . strange."

Ah. Henry Kissinger speaks. 'Aw, look, what can I tell you? I don't wanna put people down who find all that stuff fascinating. I do find it a bit strange, but when I'm actually up there doing it, or when I'm talking to people on the street who come up to me with that feeling, they get me enthuasiastic about the idea of it again. I mean," he shrugs, reasonably, "it's a nice kind of thing."

"On Saturday night I was in a small town in the Cotswolds, all kind of picturesque and nice, seeing some friends. And there was about a dozen very young teenage children. They were standing there in the main street with nothing to do, you know, and when I came out they all started singing 'Honky Tonk Woman'! It was really lovely, you know."

Jagger, it seems, is also perfectly reconciled to the two,

sometimes conflicting, halves of his professional life: being a musician and being a celebrity. The latter has its pros and cons. ("You can get into hotels when they're all booked up. There's very few advantages

. . it's not all it's cracked up to be"), but the former is what be enjoys best. "I like to create things. I enjoy making a record once a year."

Simple as that, mate. Mick Jagger's new long-play, out next month, is a solo effort conceived and partly executed with Dave Stewart of Eurythmics. They met by accident, Jagger "thought be was an amusing guy", and they spent some days together "writing a couple of songs, then going down the pub. It was fun." In the event, Stewart co-wrote just three tracks out of the 10 on Primitive Cool, though Jagger suggests that his spirit informs

the hulk Mick Jagger has the outlook and the middle-class grounding which can take veneration in its stride. He doesn't moan a lot, because he knows he has not got much to moan about, and maybe because not much bugs him enough anyway. His album is the work of a man who puts recreation at the centre of his life but has no real need to suffer for it. And if it does not much suit his nature that the Rolling Stones are a part of Britain's stiffing need for nostalgia, well,

"Nostalgia? I don't particularly enjoy it ... so let's throw it out the window!"

Just as simple as that. From the Arts page of 'The Independent', Wednesday 26

Bodacious was another

August 1987

Words

WILLIAM HARTSTON humongous, adj.

impossible to eradicate. A compilers of the Chambers, Collins and Oxford dictiofor huge or enormous, it naries have all included it thus redundant. Yet the

word that came into vogue at about the same time as humongous, but this has a respectable pedigree dating back to the mid-19th century. A variant of an older dialect term, boldacious, it implies boldness rather than leaving it in a and audacity rather than, pile of dubious neologisms as modern usage suggests, and hoping it will go away. merely an ample chest.

Post Gazette announcements to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, telephone 0171-293 2012 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2011) or fax to 0171-293 2010. Please give a daytime telephone number.

Little brother is watching you

Stop worrying about the State: the boom in cheap surveillance equipment has proved a boon to voyeurs next door. By Simon Davies

t is not every day that someone gives you free satellite vice agents, these new technologies TV, so, when a neighbour in the downstairs flat offered to install the kit "as part of a test". Jane and Phil Morris were delighted. That was in 1995, and Jane remembers how thrilled she was as the kindly neighbour crawled all over her bedroom, meticulously wiring up the television, new speakers and the satellite box.

Two years later, the couple were trying to come to terms with the news that, ever since, the neighbour had been spying on them, using miniature cameras hidden in the satellite kit. Liverpool police had visited the Morris home after cameras had been discovered in another flat. They found four hidden cameras in their bedroom, including one which was equipped with an infra-red night vision facility.

In fact, the neighbour had been watching Jane and Phil in their bedroom every night for two years. Police seized 150 tapes, including 53 with film of the Morrises' most intimate moments.

"We went numb," explains Jane. "I don't think people understand the impact of this sort of thing."

Meanwhile, in Brighton, Esther Bull, a 19-year-old student, was also trying to come to terms with the discovery that her landlord had been secretly filming her from hehind a two-way mirror in the bathroom.

"He was recording us for a couple of years," explained Esther. Even now I can't easily come to terms with what happened. It's a terrible experience.

Esther and her friends discovered the miniature camera and video tapes after becoming suspicious about the mirror, "which looked very artificial - very plastic". Behind it they uncovered the camera and video-taping equipment.

Esther, Jane and Phil are the most recent victims of a peeping tom craze using cheap off-the-shelf camera technology. Their stories are told tonight on BBC2's Private Investigations programme.

are now within the reach of anybody. Cameras measuring an inch square and able to see in virtual darkness are freely available on the British market for less than £100. Thousands are sold each month. The popular Viewmate system, for example, can be hooked into a television or a telephone wire and sells for £89 on the high street.

Cameras are available in many shapes and sizes. Some more expensive devices are the size of a cigarette packet and are capable of transmitting video and sound signals. They sell for around £300. You can even buy a camouflaged unit concealed inside a smoke alarm, fire extinguisher, stereo, whisky bottle or sports trophy.

Anyone can huy these cameras rithout a licence. Anyone can install them and record images from them without hreaching criminal law. If you manage to sidestep the law of trespass, a camera can be legally concealed in the bedroom of a friend or of a neighbour. If you can avoid unintentionally recording children, you will not be prosecuted for filming any intimate activity - as Esther and the Morrises soon discovered.

Joe Benton, the Morrises' MP, says the situation has left him "disgusted". He is seeking a meeting with Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, to argue the case for new legislation. "I'm very upset. I can only describe this sort of practice as heinous," he said.

But Mr Benton is unlikely to find a sympathetic ear in the Government, Successive Home Office ministers have opposed anything that even resembles a privacy law, and have resisted attempts by Brussels to widen the scope of data protection laws to cover closedcircuit television (CCTV). This attitude is motivated, in part, by a need to protect the activities of police, who routinely break into houses to plant bugs.

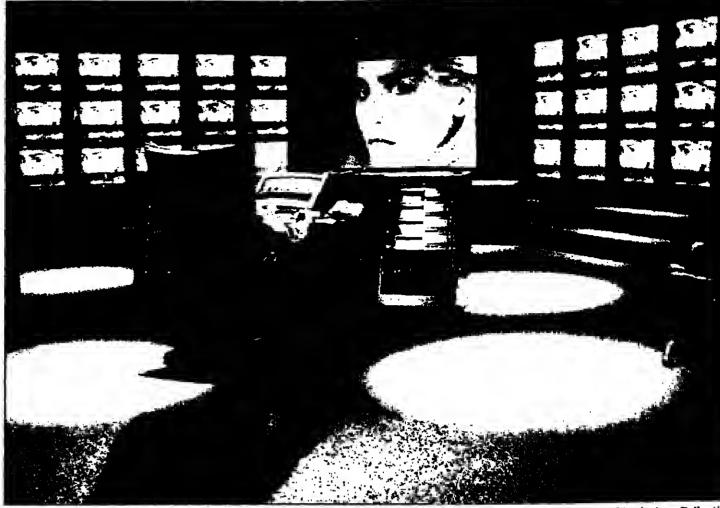
The Government's reluctance to

Once the province of secret ser-e agents, these new technologies also highlights the vital role played by CCTV in law enforcement and crime prevention. According to a recent report by the House of Lords, camera technology is becoming ubiquitous. They now keep watch over a great many public and semipublic areas throughout Britain, All Arriva huses in London are fitted with hidden cameras, as are many trains and cabs. Scotland Yard says police will now use covert cameras to detect crime - a policy which is being followed by councils, private investigators, government agencies and hospitals. Newham Council in east London, for example, recently announced that it will place hidden cameras in housing estates. Meanwhile, several police forces are considering fitting minicams in

police helmets and clothing. The cameras can be used for countless innovative purposes, and authorities are slowly pushing out their limits. Hospitals now use covert video surveillance (CVS) to monitor parents who visit their children. These videos are taken by cameras and microphones located hehind the walls of specially prepared surveillance rooms and are used in cases of unexplained child injury or illness. Where authorities believe there may be a case of abuse, the child is relocated in one of these rooms where the parents can he monitored,

However, Gwyn Tenney is one mother who was victimised by CVS. Her second child had died from cot death in 1988 in circumstances that had not led to any suspicion of foul play. When Gwyn had a third child in 1991, she and the child were placed under surveillance hy a hospital-based monitoring programme. The baby had stopped breathing on several occasions, and hospital authorities were concerned that Gwyn might be responsible.

In 1992 Gwyn's child was taken for observation to North Staffordshire hospital. Gwyn was asked to live in a room adjacent to the haby's. She did not know that, for three weeks,



The sinister side of surveillance is highlighted in 'Sliver', where a bank of cameras watches Sharon Stone

Moviestore Collection

four pin-hole cameras were watching her every movement.

The cameras watched while Gwyn and her husband engaged in what she diolomatically describes as "heavy petting". What the cameras did not record was any instance of abuse. For 16 days, the baby had been confined in isolation to the cot. with the mother under strict instructions not to take it out.

Images from CCTV cameras covert and overt - are routinely used in film and media productions. The commercial distribution two years ago of the Caught In The Act video involving people in a variety of intimate situations created widespread anxiety. In 1996 a Brentwood man complained that images of his attempted suicide had been broadcast on national television.

Meanwhile, a growing stream of letters is appearing in local newspapers complaining that surveillance cameras are intruding into people's homes. There is concern that the technology has become a honeypot for perverts. Even within the relatively tight constraints of city-centre CCTV cameras, there is some evidence that cameras are

used for deviant purposes. One camera operator in Glamorgan responsible for controlling the area's CCTV network has been convicted on more than 200 obscenity charges after using cameras to spy on women and then making obscene phone calls to them from the control room.

Researchers at the University of Hull say it is not uncommon to find voyeurs amongst camera opera- where the public's interest in sur-

tors. Clive Norris, of Hull's School of Comparative and Applied Social Sciences, says: "Although CCTV has been sold as a protector for women, we found that in a significant minority of cases the technology is used for voyeuristic purposes.

Norris and his colleagues found that 10 per cent of the time spent filming women was motivated by voyeurism. "It is not uncommon for operators to make 'greatest hits' compilations," he said.

Jane Morris has decided to establish a campaign to raise awareness of the problem. She says that camera technology is "getting out of control" and must be brought within the scope of law. "I'm sure that some system of licensing can be introduced. There has to be a cut-off point

veillance comes to an end." The campaign - Operation Peeping Tom - is being sponsored by the civil rights group. Privacy International, which recently gave evidence to the House of Lords calling for an outright ban on the sale of hidden cameras in the High Street.

The campaign also aims to help victims of camera abuse. Jane says her ordeal was made worse because she had no one to talk to. Esther had a similar experience, "I went through a range of emotions, including acute embarrassment. It would have been nice to talk to others who had been through it."

To contact Operation Peeping Tom call Jane Morris on 0151-176 1865. 'Private Investigations' is on BBC2

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Legal Notices

SCISSOR HANDS LTD The Insolvency Act 1986

The Insolvency Act 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY CIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of the Coefficies of the above named Company will be held at 25 Harley Street, London WIN 2BR on 27th August 1998 at 12,00 noon for the purposes meationed in Section 99 to 101 of the said Act.Creditions welling to vote at the Meeting must lodge there young, together with a full statement of account at the registered office - 25 Harley Street, London, WIN 2BR, not later than 12 soon on 28th August 1998. For the purposes of volving, a secured creditor is required tunless the surrenders his society to lodge at 25 Harley Street, London, WIN 2BR, before the meeting, a statement groung particulars of this security, the date when it was guest and the value at which it is assessed Notice is further given that is but of the names and activestes of the Company's creditions may be inspectifued on the control of the Company's creditions may be inspecting feed of the Board August 1998. Director

INSCLVENCY ACT 1986 BKPT CLOTHING COMPANY LIMITED (trading as BANKRUPT CLOTHING COMPANY) PINCO 913 LIMITED

(in Administration)

NOTICE IS HEREBY CAVEN that a Meeting of Certifions of the above named Companies will be held at the Qualant Meeting House States Seed, Shelfield on a Systember 1995 at 10.00 am to consider our proposals under a 2011 of the Ingolvency Act 1985 at 10 to consider establishing a Creditors' committee.

committee.

A prove form should be completed and seet to us at ProcewaterhouseCoopers. I East Parade. Shefield S1 JET by the date of the meeting a you cannot attend the meeting and with 10 by represented, in order to be critical as vater at the meeting you must give to us, not later than 12 OO hours on the business dis before the day freed for the meeting details in writing of your claim.

Dated August 21 1998

DAMED RUMM STORES and

EDWARD RUMM For Administrators

he Insolvency Act 1986 ABACUS BUREAU SERVICES LIMITED

SERVICES IMATED

NOTICE IS HEREBY CAVEN purposes to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986; that a MEELING of the CREDITIONS of the above named Company will be beld on 14th September 1998; at 4 Charterhouse Square, London KCIM AEN at 12:100 your for the purposes mensioned to Section 99 at see at the spirit Act.

NOTICE IS FURTHER CAVEN that Maurice Experience Square, London, ECIM AEN is apposted to act as the qualified insolvency Practitioner pursuant to Section 98:20th of the said Act who will jurisfy creditors, fee of charge, with such information concerning the Company's aliabra as they may reasonably require.

Dated the 31st day of August 1998 by Order of the Board

R MARPHY, Director

APTOS PRINT FINISHERS COMPANY NUMBER 02631633 NOTICE IS HEREIT (GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of Creditors of the above marked company will be held at Needle Russell, 34 Bern Marks, London, ECAA FINR on 28 Angual 1998 at 16,00 hours for the purposes mentioned in Socilions 99, 100 and 401 of

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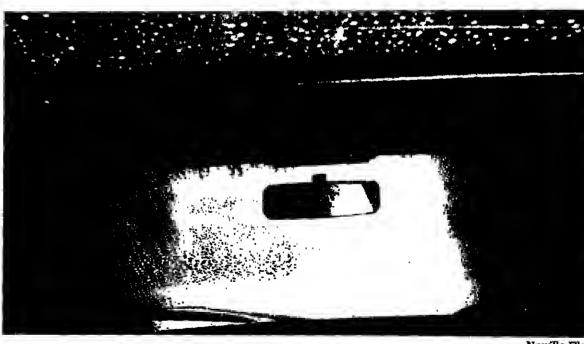
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IRRITATIONS OF MODERN LIFE

11: CLEAN CARS



Neville Elder

WE HAD a family disaster at the weekend. The accelerator cable on the car snapped. We were right outside a country pub. We hrought out iced drinks on a tray but the AA tow-truck arrived in less than an hour. The man towed it away and a friend drove us home. The garage phoned the next day. They'd tracked down the relevant cable; they were helpful, human and friendly.

The day after that, they drove the car back to us. It cost less than £45. Then we realised. Disaster: They had cleaned the car.

They'd made it shine, and the windows aren't mottled grey any more. They'd scraped the oily grime out of all the nubbly corners. They'd cleaned the wheels - they're a sort of matt silver colour. They'd vacuumed the floors. They'd taken the dust warren off the dashboard and left it sparkly black. It's going to take us years to get it back to the way it was.

They thought they were doing us a favour. They had no idea how long we'd spent elevating our car to the state where it was a health risk inside and out. To my knowledge, the outside hadn't been cleaned in four years of ownership, but it was the inside that made the real statement.

No one was going to steal our car not without inoculations and a team from the School of Tropical Medicine standing by. Inside had last been cleaned out when we had to drive my mother to a hospital appointment. Julie said: "You have to. She bates it. Your mother needs to feel comfortable." But clean cars make me feel uncomfortable. I dread hire cars; they're truly scary: pinescented and burnished metal and veneered plastic and fluffy fake tweed. It's someone else's image of the way life should be lived inhumanly unsullied.

But it's a pervasive image, and it's fooled too many people. You see them out there on sunny Sundays buckets and suds or electric extensions snaking down the garden nath and the low drone inside, the four doors spread open like a frantic moth. And what are they achieving? All they're doing is re-creating the image the car makers want us to have of their creations. Boring suited Ford executives and slightly-sharpersuited VW gauleiters and Armanisuited BMW creatives want us all to fall in with their dream of perfect existence, perfect happiness.

Well, I don't want their perfection. Our nine-year-old regularly hegs for weekend jobs to earn money and complains that his friends always get to clean their Dad's car. I'd rather pay him to read a book than see him take communion at the Church Of Getting And Spending.

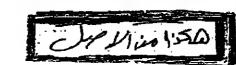
Why treat these objects admittedly absurdly expensive ones as worthy of admiration? Even the most ardent car-lover will admit that they pollute, they kill, and they make us testy, if not homicidal. So why do so many still worship at their shrine? You have to show these machines that you're better than they are. And compare our life with that of

the Car Worshippers. They're in a traffic jam and tensions are high and their six-year-old doesn't want to finish his roasted vegetable with tarragon mayounaise sandwich.

The car worshipper has to find a bag and contort round from the passenger seat and retract the sandwich crust and make sure it's safely bagged and no oil leaks through the paper bag before it's suitably dumped. We say Throw It On The Floor. Same with apole cores. rejected sickly sweets and juice cartons (half-full or empty).

The Car Worshippers are at the beach and everyone is hot and sticky. yet they have to empty their sandy shoes out and hop over Tormac into the car, risking burns and broken glass. We tip our shoes out once into the car; no one complains (and it tamps down the spilled juice).

The real advantage comes months later. You have real holiday souvenirs - the mouldy sandwich runnelled into the seat push-back, the sprouting peach stone Superglued to the door pocket, the torn-up note to the traffic warden you later used to wipe the baby's nose - and each of them brings back moments of true familial closeness. In most cars, you wouldn't know you had a family. Because if you did, you wouldn't want ever to sell it and buy a new one - and remember. that's all they want from you.



Do the Welsh deserve Snowdon?

If the people of Wales cannot decide on a national assembly, what hope is there for Snowdonia? By Clive Gammon

Eisteddfod of Wales, earlier this month, to bardic acclamation and a cheque for £1m from Sir Anthony Hopkins, the National Trust announced its Snowdonia Appeal. It had become necessary after a local farmer, whose family had owned the land that encompassed Snowdon's summit for 300 years, declared his reluctant decision to sell. Fears were immediately raised that the mountain might be bought by a developer who would exploit it for tourism - rumour pointed at a mysterious Irishman. But, patriotically, the had already received a bigger offer) Richard Williams announced that if the National Trust could raise £3m, then he would reserve it for the Trust. For three months only.

But with only 80 days left, the fund is still £1,530,000 light - and an extra million will be needed to cover other charges. Meantime, a simple calculation shows that if you add £200,000 from the Chris Brasher Foundation to Sir Anthony's munificent million, then divide the remainder between donations from Wales and those from England, the US and elsewhere, then it appears that the Welsh value this great national symbol of theirs at-roughly 54p a never become, for exa head. (Which, it should be said, does not include the £50 collected by patrons of the Kiln Inn, Wrexham, handed over this week by footballer an Rusb or the cheque, in the post presumably, that was promised last

week by the Prince of Wales.) Still and all, this doesn't mean that the Welsh are tight-fisted, even though you still hear the old joke that the 50p coin was made hexagonal the better to pry it with a pliers off a Cardigan farmer. The real truth is that the Welsh are so divided

over almost everything that affects their lives that it's crazy to expect them to regard without serious suspicion something as major as the future of Snowdon.

And I say that as a Welshman who, true to his national tradition, is as schizoid about the place as, well, the entire electorate of a nation, which managed a referendum result for a National Assembly so absurdly close that it was decided by a majority somewhat smaller than the crowd that shows up at the Cardiff v Swansea rugby game. Which, sadly, is not large these days.

And so I am in two minds about sending my contribution to the Snowdonia fund, I am not sure, indeed, that my countrymen deserve Snowdon, Indeed, I never stood a chance of being anything but totally confused on a subject like this one since I was born and raised on the wrong side of its major fault line, the one that divides the Cymru Cymraeg, the Welsh-speaking Welsh from us Anglos.

Allow me to review my case history. My mother was a Jones: her family went back to 17th-century port reeves of Swansea. But my father's lot had come over on a boat from North Devon a couple of hundred years later, which would mean, among other things, that I would rector of BBC Wales. Nevertheless, when I went to

school we Anglos were still in the ascendant. Sure, there was a oncea-week Welsh lesson and I can still say "It's raining" in Welsh, though don't ask me to spell it. It would be another, full generation at least before Welsb became so chic that the doctors and lawyers and such of my native city started to send their kids to schools to be taught entirely through the medi-



Wales's national Eisteddfod, which earlier this month saw Sir Anthony Hopkins donate £1m to the Snowdonia Appeal

When I went up to university meantime, also in Wales, none of my best friends, indeed any of my friends, spoke Welsh, even though the place was full of Cymru Cymraeg undergraduates. There was complete linguistic apartheid. In the students' union, every single election, right down to the secretaryship of the jazz club, was conducted on the the air there, I suppose. language issue. We faced off like Papes and Prods in Ulster. We called them "shuns", a rough phonetic rendering of Sion, which is Welsh for John. God knows what they called "Saes", I expect, which is Welsh for Saxon, qualified. I'm sure, by some choice obscenity. But I wasn't a Saes, I knew full well. I didn't want

to be a Saes. Trouble was, the Sions wouldn't let me be Welsh either, so sod them, I thought. And if, at that time, you'd have asked me to contribute to the saving of Snowdon I'd have said sod Snowdon, too. I think I started to change when, in the Sixties, it was decided to flood the Tryweryn Valley in North Wales with-it the vil school and chapel, that went by the same name. (Getting serious now. see?) A handful of Tryweryn folk

demonstrated in Liverpool: it was for a water supply for Liverpool that the valley was going to be sacrificed. The villagers tried to speak at a city council meeting but they were evicted to triumphant catcalls from Bessie Braddock, a loud, heavily built bully of a woman who at the time was a Labour MP. When I saw her on film, even in black and white, I knew I had met the real Saes face to face.

the Sions. Gwynfor Evans won a byelection for Plaid Cymru, the party of the Sions, in Carmarthen and, well, Gwynfor was a saint, wasn't he? All in all, I was ripe for a naive sort of conversion, and when, soon after, I went to live in New York, the process was complete. Something in

But it had a lot to do also, I'm sure, with my spending so much time in Irish bars on 2nd Avenue, which nightly rang to the Wolfe Tones and other groups of the same kind hammering out "rebel" songs. Facile they were to the point of daftness, I could see that, and the mvincible ignorance of the Irish American audience was plain, too. But they seemed, when they boozi-ly roared out "Boolavogue" or "Kevin Barry" to have an identity that I lacked. I didn't know the words of any Weish songs. They were all in Welsh, see.

So I ended up joining the St David's Society of New York, and at nist i was encoura in the US - or certainly in New York and Philadelphia - it was actually quite chic being Welsh. Fresh from their own Industrial Revolution, they'd set up the steel mills of Pennsylvania and by the time the Irish arrived they were members in good standing of the best country clubs. Which is why, no doubt, when I opened my invitation to the annual March lst St David's Day shindig, I found that tickets cost \$150, a lot of money in the mid-Seventies.

With that, and the discovery that

After that, I sort of mellowed to I they held eisteddfodau, I quit the society. I continued my Welsh studies, though, feeding on a rich and heavy diet of Welsh history. We had heroes as gaudy as Brian Boru and William Wallace: Owain Glyndwr scourging Hereford and Shropshire then disappearing into the mist and Owain Law Goch, Owen of the Red Hand, and his men fighting along-side the French against the Saes like Ireland's Wild Geese.

Later I became more sophisti-cated. The real heroes of Welsh history, I discovered, were different. The Scots and Irish had nationalists: we had nonconformists and socialists. Martyrs too, like Dic Penderyn. hung in Merthyr after the Chartist riots and the striking Welsh miners and railwaymen, just before The Great War, shot dead by soldiers under the command of the Home Secretary, Winston Churchill...

Heady stuff, and headier still when you are 3,000 miles west of reality. By the time I came back to Britain in the mid-Nineties, if Snowdon had been up for grabs. I'd have gone deep into the red to help save it. And it seemed as if my timing had been perfect. Almost the first thing that New Labour did was set up a referendum for a National Assemhly for Wales, not as good a deal as the Scots were getting, but it was a start. And, so belp me, I joined Plaid Cymru. I had come full circle. In all but language I was a Sion.

What I'd forgotten, of course, was the instinct of my countrymen for keying the self-destruct command, their talent for spontaneous

fission that rivals the amoeha's. Suddenly, Wales itself had become unimportant. Instead, what emerged from its cave to fight the smallest degree of autonomy was dinosauric Welsh Old Labour, terrified of losing its ancient monopoly of power, to become locked in hattle with Tony's Own. Nationalists and Tories were irrelevant. Sure, the vote was affected by the old folk from England emerging from their re-tirement bungalows in Colwyn Bay and Tenby to resist any possibility of the UK breaking up, but if they were Saes oppressors, they could

have fooled me. It was like waking up from, not a bad dream, but one that was only tenuously connected with reality. ally, see. Aren't I?

To tease English friends I still refer to "The Queen of England" and I still have a sneaky admiration for those kids in Aberystwyth a while back who shamed that lady into turning back when, in (so they believed) insufferably patronizing style, she showed up at the National Library of Wales. So it has not entirely vanished.

that dream, and meantime, what should I do about Snowdon? The straightforward thing, give what I can to keep it for Wales? Or will I simply be handing cash over to a foreign organisation - the National Trust - to make the mountains safe for Saes jocks like Chris Brasher? I'm still havering. I'm a Sion, re-

YOU ASK THE QUESTIONS

JERRY SADOWITZ

We apologise to readers for not publishing Jerry Sadowitz's answers to your questions, which we considered not worth brinting because his r to almost every question was 'Fuck off'



NEXT WEEK: HOWARD MARKS

Please send any questions you would like to put to the former drug dealer, now writer and columnist Howard Marks, to: You Ask The Questions. Features, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL; by fax on 0171-293 2182; or e-mail them to: yourquestions@independent.co.uk by lunchtime on Friday 28 August



REVELATIONS

JULIAN LENNON, BARBADOS, CHRISTMAS 1997

I had to grasp the mantle

TD ALWAYS thought 30 was just a number until I reached it and started digging up the past, worrying about the future and how long I had left. I've always been pretty analytical, but it struck me harder than I ever thought possible. I'd been manipulated a lot, there had been a lack of respect towards me as an artist in my own right. I had always been promoted as "the son of". But what about me? It hleaches you of your own personality. Being extremely shy, painfully shy, I was always too quiet and polite, never able to confront or find the courage to say No. From day one I never felt the presence of "the shadow", hut everyone wanted me to have one, and so I had to struggle and fight to get out from under their preconceptions.

I decided to quit the music business and get off the treadmill of writing, recording and the promo tour. For the first time in my adult life I I was really living, I could indulge in my hobbies, like sailing and photography. But with time to reflect, all my problems from the past came to light: on the one hand, I've had such a normal upbringing with my mum, who has kept me grounded; but on the other, the wild experiences through my dad. At the age of four you don't understand why there are

fans standing at the gate. People don't understand that, yes, John Lennon was my biological father, but he left when I was five years old and I may have seen him 10 times in my life after that. With little or no contact, other people have had to stand in, like my stepfather. My real dad's music was a great inspiration to me, both with the Beatles and solo, but as a father he was a totally different kettle of fish. That has always been tough to deal with; it can never be resolved because he is no longer around. The only thing I can do is look at his life and try to understand where be came from. There is no rule book, and I have nobody to look up to who has been in a similar situation. But these are the cards I've been dealt.

Away from the music business, I learnt to enjoy myself without worrying about whether people were looking at me. When I first came back from the States I lived in the countryside in France. It was probably the first time in my life that I felt anonymity. Although strange at first, it was a wonderful feeling.

architecture was almost Greekstyle, with the soft, white-washed walls, very simple, chilled, and peaceful; which was just as well because I had a big decision to make. I'd just finished an album of new songs. Having financed it myself, it was the first time I had the opportunity to work as I wanted to without someone knocking on the door and saying it's not up-tempo enough, or the chorus isn't commercial enough. But I was still unsure about getting back into the business; it was high risk to my sanity.

I'd invited several friends to In America my guard was up, not be- join me in the Caribbean, many 1

'For me, composing songs is like self-help therapy. Not being able to speak out, I had bottled up everything inside: shut down and shut up. It was a very sad existence'

cause of what happened to Dad, but how fans approached me. If I was in a diner or a bar I could always sense movement behind me. Instead of confronting me head on and speaking, they would put on a Beatles tape and watch for my reaction - disturbing. Eventually I learned to be stone-faced about it, not react at all. I became over-aware, which was not healthy. If I beard Beatles music on the radio, anywhere, in a shop or a lift, I would immediately start looking around wondering if they were trying to wind me up again. I got to the point where I was so sick of hear-

ing Beatles music. It was a curse. Last Christmas I rented a beautiful house on the west coast of Barbados, just a couple of hundred yards from the water, with its own gardens and swimming pool. The

hadn't seen for a long time, I have this tendency to try to look after people a lot. With different guests coming every other week, airport runs and island tours (I've been going there for 15 years) I was beginning to feel as if I was running a hotel, and needed a holiday myself. Slowly I realised I was making myself too busy to think.

I've always been bad at decisionmaking. During my childhood plans would be made for me to see my father and then they'd have to be altered - most probably by managers, not him - so I was brought up expecting there to be changes. Therefore my answer has always been: maybe. I've always found it very hard to say: we'll do it. Finally, I realised I could no longer put off the decision, so I drove round the island on my

own. On the east coast it is very rocky with rugged terrain and there is a part in the north called Little Scotland, because it is so mountainous - it made me feel grounded.

I might have enjoyed the last seven years being just Julian Lennon - private citizen and nobody's son, but finally I knew I had to grasp the mantle again. At least this time I would do everything on

In the back of my mind I'd always thought of starting my own record company – now I would eventually do it. Not wasting any time, I started finding out the logistics. I seemed to be for ever on the phone and finally a week later I sat down with my business manager and we started the company. It was very quick. I haven't regretted the deci-

This time around it a different. I'm in control personally and professionally. But, most important, I've found my own self-worth as a writer. For me, composing songs is like selfhelp therapy. Not being able to speak out, I had bottled everything np inside: shut down and shut up. It was a very depressing and sad existence. Now, when times become a little too overwhelming, one of the best ways to resolve them is to get a pen and paper out and say to myself: how do I fix this and become a happier person? Finally, I've found constancy and a balance between creativity and normality. If we're all set a task by our childhoods, this has certainly been mine.

Julian Lennon's new single I Don't Wanna Know, released this week. is taken from the album Photograph Smile'

INTERVIEW BY ANDREW G MARSHALL



CLOTHES LINE



WHO'S HOT?

SARA DAYKIN, THE NEW FACE OF MIU MIU

days, but one of the newest, 15year old Sara Daykin, could well stay the distance. Daykin, from Swinton, was initially noticed by Select booker Sarah Lego because she was having a blazing row with her Mum, Barbara, in Manchester's Arndale shopping centre. Within weeks, Steven Meisel had whisked ber away to photograph her for American and

Then David Bailey called her "the oew Twiggy", and it took off from there. Now she is the star of Miu Miu's latest advertising cam-

paign (pictured above). So what is it about her that has

NEW FACES in modelling seem to captured the fashion world's pop up every five minutes these imagination? "When I first saw imagination? "When I first saw her with her mum," says Leon, "I walked around them three times; Barbara thought I was mad, Sara probably did too. She had never thought of herself as model material." Photographer John Akehurst, who shot the Miu Miu campaign, thinks her appeal lies in the fact that "you can't stick her in a box. There is something behind her beauty that is quite haunting." Refreshingly, Daykin has already turned down hig money in favour of schoolwork, being with her mates, and most recently she swapped a £2,000 job for a night in the local disco.

HOT THING MANHATTAN PORTAGE RUCKSACK



LONG GONE are the days when rucksacks were firmly strapped only to the backs of climbers, campers and day-tripping hill-walkers. Now they are both fash-ionable and functional, a necessity for any student embarking on a college career. Man-bumbag (this could be a problem hattan Portage provides one if your rucksack is full of rock-answer to the dilemma of how to hard books). stylishly heave books, files and mobile phone from library to lecture to digs and back again.

Set up 25 years ago in New York by John Peters and Rob Hansoo. Manhattan Portage loving care will last through the manufactures rucksacks in var-rigours of at least a three-year ious shapes (traditional twostrap; asymmetric "J-Bag"; and courier despatch styles, sizes and colours to suit even the fussiest of freshers.

Susie, a devotee for the last six years says. "they're super-well made and they last and last. I still use some I had made to order in New York six years ago". Her current favourite is an eggshellhlue J Bag: "the colour to have, and it holds all essentials."

But she says, a problem for girls with the J-Bag style is that

"the single strap tends to cut into your boobs, especially if worn with a T-shirt, but it's not such a problem when you're wearing a denim jacket or coat". Susie has overcome this by re-adjusting the straps to make an oversize

The rucksacks are not cheap - prices start at around £55, and the J-Bag pictured is £60. But consider it an investment purchase which, with a little tender course. Jean-Marc from Da Regular Store says: "People huy more for durability than for de-sign. There are so many bad hrands around hut these can last up to ten years if they're treated right." Set aside part of that meagre grant.

Manhattan Portage from Da Regular Store, 16 Earlham Street, Covent Garden, London WC2, enquiries for nationwide stockists 0171-240-2625

ADAM FULCHER











blue jersey knee-length shift with circle graphic,

print T-shirt (just seen). £35, and denim hip-seam pedal pushers, £45, both by Seraph for TS Design. Jack Purcell leather plimsolls £39.99, available from good sports stores nation-

Bottom left, slash-neck spin print T-shirt, £40, by Seraph for TS Design.

Bottom right, slash-neck pimento jersey T-shirt with pink circle graphic, £45. Knee-length iersev skirt. £45. Both by Hussein Chalayan for TS Design. in black and sky-blue.

All clothes will be available from Top Shop, Oxford Circus London W1 from the end of September with the label TS Design (each designer's work will be clearly indicated in the store. The refurbished Top Shop opens on 3 October, As an added incentive, NUS cardbolders receive 10 per cent off at Top Shop

Photographs: Mauricio Guillen

Tamara Cincik

Hair: Jimo Salako

Make-up: Charlotte

Tilbury

There's always room at the top

So, you think you're too old, too rich and too stylish to be seen in Top Shop on a Saturday afternoon? Think again, sister. Because that's where you'll find some of Britain's best designer labels this season. By Melanie Rickey

ussein Chalayan's clothes are of place among the colourful clobber. Now, however, with expensive. His new range for TSE New York is bloody expensive. In fact, even his sample sales are pushing the boat out. That's probably why there are a lot of smiley faces in fashionable circles at present, for the 28-year-old designer has agreed to turn his busy hand to designing a range for the high street. Top Shop's TS Design range, to

It is not only Chalayan who has been invited to "guestdesign" a collection. Sherald Lamden of Seraph and the newcomer Tracey Boyd have also jumped on board the good ship Top Sbop, and next month their clothes will begin to appear at the new, all-singing-all-catwalking Oxford Street flagship store.

Designers on the high street are nothing new; Debenhams have been doing it successfully for a couple of years. What is different is who the clothes are for, and their price.

Top Shop, as we all know, is the Mecca for teenage girls (and canny shoppers with an eye for a looky-likey fashionable finds) everywhere. Shopping at London's Oxford Circus branch in particular is a day out in itself, and when the refurbished store opens at the end of September, it will be even better. There will be six catwalk presentations a week, hair salons, fake tattoo parlours, and enough affordable clothes to kit out a small town. What is even more mindboggling is the size. The changing-rooms alone will accommodate 2,000 people.

The TS Design range was introduced last year for women with a bit more money to spend on fashion than their (perhaps) younger counterparts, and frankly it looked a bit out drawstrings and prints. For Top Shop Lamden gave it a

designer names to support it, the range will prove absolutely irresistible to regular customers and fashion luvvies alike. Each one is carefully targeted at a different type. Chalayan, who says, "I did it because it's so different from what I usually do", has come up with three colours - red, black and sky blue - and one fabric - jersey - which be has turned into simple separates for the girl who likes to look chic with minimal fuss. Slash-neck tops with bracelet-length or no sleeves, vests, slim to the knee skirts, and a vest dress are imbued with Chalayan's spare, linear handwriting. Some bear a latex circle graphic, but the overall message is simplicity with a dash of restrictive modernity. Of all the pieces,

the black top with slash-neck and bracelet-length sleeves,

at £50, is most certain to be a sell-out. The masterminds of this project are John Hoerner, chief executive of Arcadia (the group that owns Top Shop) and chairman of the British Fashion Council, and Sarah Mower, fashion features editor of Harper's Bazaar, whom Hoerner has employed as his fashion director. The two of them approached Chalayan and Sherald Lamden and, in return for their work, Top Shop are sponsoring their forthcoming catwalk shows for London Fashion Week - something Lamden is ecstatic about. "We've only been independent for a

year, so this is a great help," she says.

Her collection for the store has an upbeat, clubby feel. "Top Shop is for good-time girls. I hung out there before I decided what to do because I wasn't given a brief as such; they just asked me to provide the Seraph look." Seraph is also for good-time urban girls. It's funky eclectic, and buzzing with tiny but all-important details such as twinkling sequins,

"spin", as she puts it. "I even wanted to call it 'Spin-Off'." She didn't, in the end, but instead put a spin graphic oo to the T-shirts and denim jackets, and gave everything a slightly nautical imprint with a sailor-collared jacket and classic sailor pants, both also made from hard-wearing denim

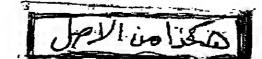
Thirtysomething Lamden asserts that she would wear all the clothes herself, "particularly the wide-leg, low-slung jeans [£50] which are the same cut as the ones from Seraph, only with less detail".

Now that "contemporary girl" and "good-time urban-girl" have been kitted out at Top Shop there is one space left to fill, which is for "pretty party girl", and this is where Tracey Boyd comes in. Her range will be available at the end of October, and is timed for the party season.

Boyd, 37, started her fashion career as in-house designer for the London boutique Tokio. Two years on, she has her own label. The clothes, which she describes as "strong feminine", are not the least bit wispy or floaty. "I like my clothes to offer support," she says, "and I think about underwear choices." A self-confessed Top Shopaholic, Boyd can't wait to see her new range hanging on the rails. "When I first saw the finished samples I was like Ohmygod!", she says. "They are such good quality, which is surprising for the high street."

Expect party dresses in gorgeous colours such as dusty violet, soft lilac, and what Boyd describes as "dirty celadon", a kind of greenish-grey. As a final flourish, Boyd has designed the perfect party-entrance coat, with a fake fur collar to match the decadent mood of the dresses.

Now that Top Shop really is for Everywoman, and not just Everygirl, who can resist? I certainly can't. See you in



Clinton goes visiting as support fades



Bill Clinton leaving to address yesterday's special meeting of party faithful

PRESIDENT Bill Clintoo yesterday went among the Amerlcan people for the first time since his televised admission of a "not appropriate" relationship with Monica Lewinsky in a short excursion to test whether he could still work his personal magic on the voters.

The exercise, in a city described as the most Democratic in the country, came amid signs that senior Democrats and members of Mr Clinton's administration fear his conduct will be an electoral liability.

His re-emergence coincided with more bad oews for the Democrats after the announcement by the Attorney-General, Janet Reno, that she was launching a new investigation into the legality of fund-raising by Vice-President Al Gore before the last election. It supplemeots an existing fund-raising inquiry and will consider new and damaging evidence that Mr Gore may have lied to investigators in an earlier investigation.

While the new inquiry means Ms Reno is still resist. ing Republican pressure to ap-

point an independent prosecutor into Mr Gore's activities, it adds another wave to the tide of dubious conduct and sleaze lapping at the Clinton presi-

Mr Clintoo's appearance began in mid-morning, when he left his borrowed holiday estate on Martha's Vineyard for Worcester, a half-hour flight away. The occasion was a hastily arranged forum on school safety and juvenile crime, and a party fund-raising event.

The previous day his Democratic hosts had dominated the airwaves to evince unalloyed delight that he was to honour their city with a visit and said there had been no difficulty filling the 2,000 seats, even at two days' notice. During his brief address, largely a pastiche of speeches given in recent weeks, Mr Clinton looked tired and at times slightly distracted. He had bags under his eyes, and, unusually, stumbled twice over his words

Preparations for his trip

more, perhaps even apologise for, his affair with Ms Lewinsky. While accepted, according to polls, by most voters, his admission 10 days before was as-



Gore: Faces new inquiry

was that it had lacked contrition and exhibited defiance towards the independent prosecutor. Kenneth Starr.

In the event, Mr Clinton said nothing yesterday about the affair or the other pressing subject of the day, the Russian

came amid speculation that he economic collapse and accomwas preparing to say something panying fall of the US stock

Mr Clintoo's silence on his relationship with Ms Lewinsky was seen as a victory for his lawyer and his wife over White House advisers who were said to have argued strongly for a fuller and more abject statement that would dispel memories of the earlier admission.

Mr Clintoo's personal lawyer, David Kendall, was said to have strongly opposed any further statement because of the legal risk. Mrs Clinton was also said to be opposed on the grounds that it would simply perpetuate public discussion of a hurtful episode that she would prefer to keep private.

But the arguments said to be raging in the White House over a further statement were being replicated up and down the Democratie hierarchy. Repubbcan contenders for seats in November's mid-term coogressional elections are already starting to campaign on a "morality and credibility" platform, Barbara Boxez one of California's senators, who is re-

lated by marriage to Mrs Clinton and faces a close contest in November, was berated repeatedly on the subject during a televised candidates debate

on Wednesday. The White House is simul. taneously increasing pressure on leading Democrats to toe the official line more enthusiastically in public. This boils down to indignation about the "violation of the President's private life", regret for what happened. and determination to "get this matter behind us and get back

to running the country". Dick Gephardt. Democrat minority leader in the House of Representatives and a possible rival of Mr Gore for the presidential nomination in 2000, bas shifted his ground on Mr Clinton's conduct. He initially coodemned it as "reprehensible" and said he could not immediately rule out impeachment hearings. Since then, Mr Gephardt has giveo two interviews, stressing the need to "get this matter behind us" and wait for Mr Starr's report.

Suzanne Moore. Review, page 3

'Turandot' to be staged in **Forbidden City**

TURANDOT IS going home. For nine glorious nights, Puccini's BY JAMES ROBERTS best-loved opera (at least since the Italia '90 World Cup took "Nessun Dorma" to the top of the charts) will be performed by a cast of thousands in the Forbidden City, the vast imperial compound in the heart of

Peking. Zubin Mehta, who will coothe only difference between this production and the Turandot he conducted last year in Florence would be the lack of specially built sets and, appropriately for the world's most populous nation, rather more extras oo the stage.

Mehta is bringing the chorus and orchestra from the Florence Opera House, but about two-thirds of the cast of 1,000 dren's chorus and extras - will

be Chinese. said, indicating the gold tiled roofs and red walls of the 500year-old Temple for Worshipping Ancestors, now part of the Working People's Cultural ping channels on television. Palace, just east of the popular tourist sites of the imperial

The temple is built on a makes a natural outdoor stage.

Yesterday, young soldiers rehearsing in green camouflage pants and Turandot T-shirts pounded an urgent, thundering boom on Chinese

Michael Ecker, the producer, said the \$15m (£9m) production was unlikely to make a duct the extravaganza, said profit, but would probably break even. He has recruited Zhang Yimou, the film director, to direct the opera.

> ally for films such as Story of Qui Ju and the Oscar-oominated Raise the Red Lantern has said he knew nothing about Western opera until he was asked to direct last year's Tu randot in Italy.

"At first it was confusing dancers, members of a chil- another heavy-set person on stage and I don't know who's who," he said in ooe interview. "Puccinl remains Puccini. "But then they sang and it hit But it does inspire you." Mehta me how beautiful the human voice is. Exquisite. It was very moving." Zhang said he now stops to listen to opera every time he catches some while flip-

Mehta says Zhang has a great sense of theatre. "He knows the musical cues. He knows exactly when a piece of huge stone platform that music oeeds another 50 people

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IN BRIEF

Libya seeks to delay transfer

LIBYA SAID it wanted a delay in handing over two suspects in the 1988 bombing of a PanAm flight over Lockerbie, but would stick by its agreement to hold their trial in the Netherlands. Officials said the government of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi "needs some time to prepare" for the men's transfer to the Netherlands.

Hurricane batters Carolina coast

MORE THAN a million people living in the coastal areas of North Carolina were without power yesterday after Hurricane Bonnie hattered the southern shoreline. Strong winds and torrential rain caused extensive flooding of the barrier islands along the coast but there were oo reported casualties.

More surgery for bomb family

THE BRITISH family wounded in the Planet Hollywood restaurant bomb blast in Cape Town have undergone further surgery to remove shrapnel. Tony Glddings, 38, from Southampton, had more serious head and leg injuries than first thought. Doctors operated on the spine of Jacob, three, after amputating the foot of Laura, eight.

Chinese halt clergyman's services

CHINESE POLICE prevented a defiant Protestant minister from holding services in his popular underground church yesterday after he conducted a mass haptism of 300 in a factory pool on I August. The Rev Yuan Xiangchen was stopped by police as he left his suburban Peking home.

Serbs block UN aid convoy

THE UN refugee agency has accused the Serbs of blocking an aid convoy in Kosovo. The UNHCR said it was the first time since the start of hostilities in Kosovo that a humanitarian convoy had been turned back. The convoy had been on its way to two villages - Brolic and Skivjan.

HELEN LIDDELL

'After every trip by Tony Blair to Scotland, our morale is boosted

--- THE FRIDAY REVIEW, PAGE 5

Spencer and Fayed, divided by death

Two men, closely linked to Diana, seemed united in grief. But the old divisions re-emerged as both suffered very bad years

the pulpit of Westminster Abbey, choking back tears as he launched a bitter attack on the House of Windsor. More than a billion people watched him as he stood only yards from the Queen, vowing to protect the Princes William and Harry from the furies which had caused his sister so much pain.

We will not allow them to suffer the anguish that used regularly to drive you to tearful despair," he promised his sister, Diana, Princess of Wales. And beyond that, oo behalf of your mother and sisters, I pledge that we, your blood family, will do all we can to continue the imaginative way in which you were steering these two exceptional young men so that their souls are not simply immersed by duty and tradition hut can sing openly as you planned."

It seemed to be what the nation had been waiting for. In contrast to the cold absence of the Royals, the hurning hot pain of a wounded person with real feelings that mir-

And we believed him. We helieved he would help these vulnerable children to escape the evil clutches of the monarchy and all the black abnormality that goes with it.

Sitting in the transept, wiping tears from his eyes, was Mohamed al-Fayed, the father of Dodi - the man who had made the Princess of Wales happy for the first time

After a decade of being eschewed by the Establishment, of heing portrayed as the arch-villam, the man who acquired Harrods by deceit, it seemed that Mr Fayed had finally been accepted by the nation that would not give him its nationality. It had happened by the most terrible means - the death of his son-but it appeared his years in the wilderness were over

Two men, so completely different, had touched a nation by their association with an extraordinary person and it seemed some of her magic would rub off on them

But it did not. A year on, the two men who seemed redeemed by the tragedy are again condemned. There are no winners in the story, but if there are losers, they are Lord Spencer and Mr Fayed.

Lord Spencer's fall is easiest to chart. It was brought about by hypocrisy. When, after turning his sights from the Windsors at Diana's funeral service, he rounded on the media who he claimed had hounded his sister to death, newspaper editors ran for cover. But when they discovered that the Earl, like Prince Charles, also had a wife driven to an eating disorder by his adultery, they rapidly re-emerged.

Lord Spencer, 34, had chosen to divorce his wife. Victoria, 33, in South Africa, where he lives, rather than in England, where settlements are invariably higher. During the hearing last December, it became clear why he was so anxious to muzzle the press - because he had so much to hide.

His wife teamed up with Lord Spencer's former mistress, Chantal Collopy, and between them they painted a picture of a cruel and arrogant man, a drunkard who had bedded a dozen women while his wife was recovering from an eating disorder at a private clinic. In comparison, the Prince of Wales appeared angelic.

After days of bile spewed in and out of the courtroom, Lord Spencer ended up setand a £250,000 home in Cape Town.

Once the dust had settled, Lord Spencer sought refuge in the memory of his sister. His reputation, his thinking appeared to go, was mextricably linked to hers. But the more he did in her name, the more he appeared to cheapen it.

There was loud criticism over the conversion of stables at the family home, Althorp, into a museum dedicated to Diana, her life and times and, inevitably, her dresses. Some thought the admission fees, at £9.50 with "at least 10 per cent" going to charity, were too high while others, notably the Archbishop of York, David Hope, said it had contributed to an un-

AFTER DIANA

THE OUTSIDERS BY STEVE BOGGAN



healthy cult. Throughout the year, Lord Spencer's plans for his sister's memory a pop concert near her grave, tours of Althorp - drew criticism. Whether warranted or not, he had quite clearly become a target for the press he had so chided.

"It is difficult for people to understand how completely he was overcome by Diana's death," said a colleague who worked with Lord Spencer in television. "They were very young when their mother left them, so they grew closer than most hrothers and sisters. Some of his behaviour is a little worrying, almost obsessive, and that has led to some errors of judgement. To criticise some of the projects undertaken hy the Diana memorial committee as tacky, and then go on to plan a pop concert yourself, was seen as a hit silly.

"But he needs to be given some Iceway. This has been an unimaginably terrible year for him. Give the guy a hreak."

The fall of Mr Fayed stemmed from many sources. He saw persecution and rejection at every turn. He genuinely believea his son was murdered by the security services because he was a muslim who was about to marry the mother of the next King of England.

He insists Dodi and Diana were plan-

t was a sight few people will ever joint custody of their four children – after and the Windsors reject out of hand. And forget. The 9th Earl Spencer in describing his wife as an "unfit mother" – the mulait of Western and the Windsors reject out of hand. And he still stands alone in his claims that Diana uttered these last words: "I would like all my possessions in Dodi's apartment to be given to my sister Sarah, including my jewellery and my personal clothes and please tell her to take care of my boys."

All the evidence suggests there were no last words and the person who was supposed to have conveyed them to Mr Fayed, a nurse, does not exist. The fabrication of such a last message, when all the medical evidence says she could not have spoken. is something the Spencers and Windsors cannot forgive.

Mr Fayed believes that at the root of the continuing refusal to grant him citizenship is racism - rather than the criticism of his character and honesty contained in a Department of Trade and Industry report into his acquisition of Harrods in 1985. When, immediately after the tragedy, he was shunned and slighted by the Windsors and the Spencers, this belief welled up into a tide of hitterness and anger. Mr Fayed's grief, it seemed, counted for nothing: the life of his son, a muslim and a commoner, was less important than the life of a Chrisian aristocrat.

Mr Fayed, 66, has never been known for his lightness of touch. He hires expensive public relations people to do his talking for him, but often he speaks over them in a torrent he later regrets. So it was to be with the death of his son,

In spite of the fact that his employee Henri Paul, the driver of the Mercedes in which his son died, was drunk, and in spite of evidence that the car had problems with its brakes, Mr Fayed until this week did not acknowledge that his own staff at the Ritz might be to hlame. The Spencers would have a good case against him should they choose to sue. Instead, he prefers to argue that dark forces were at work. He likes to draw attention to something Diana once said herself: "One day I'm going to go up in a helicopter and it'll just blow up. MI5 will do away with me.

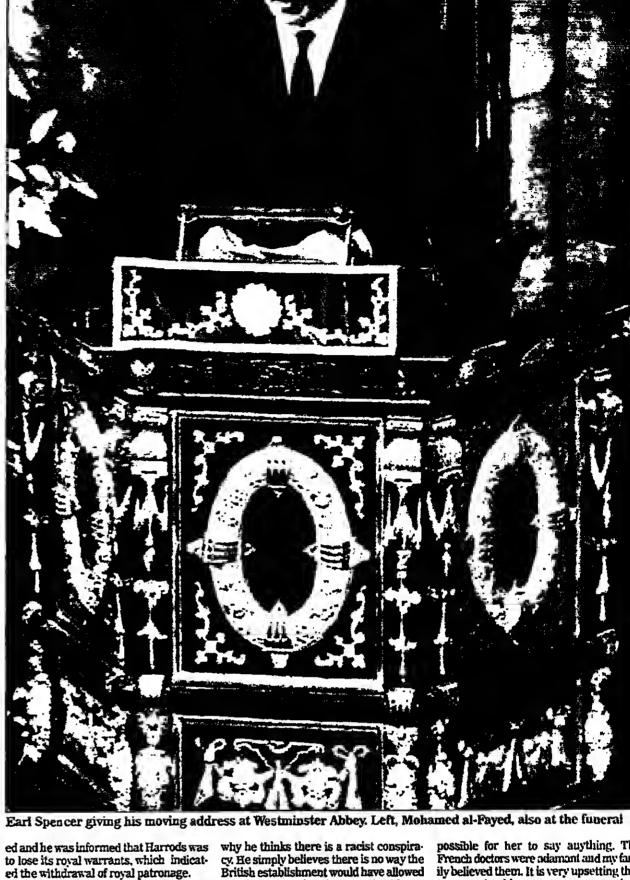
Many of the public believe him, but the Spencers and the Windsors do not. They feel his claims are sensational and do nothing to help the Princes overcome the death of their mother. As a result, they refuse to speak to him and, in the kind of underhanded way that caused Diana to refer to them as "the Enemy", they plant stories about him in the tabloid press. In one of these stories, he was accused of trying to buy the princes' affections with gifts which, according to a Buckingham Palace source, were left unopened, given to charity or locked away in the howels of the palace.

*Charles was astonished when the first presents turned up from Harrods," the newspaper quoted "a close friend" as saying. "Then more and more arrived. It was extremely inappropriate. The boys had lost their mother - a new toy wasn't going to cheer them up.

"They were never fond of this man before their mother died and that remains very much the case."

"That was a very hurtful story," said an associate of Mr Fayed. "I have personally seen letters of thanks the boys have written to him. He got to know them quite well when they went on holiday and he is very fond of them. All these put-downs are having a terrible effect on him."

But there were more. His 12-year sponsorship of the Windsor Horse Show, which tling with Victoria for £1,815,000 cash, ning to marry - something the Spencers is attended by the Queen, was terminat- words at the hospital. You can understand



to lose its royal warrants, which indicated the withdrawal of royal patronage.

Finally it all became too much when Mr Fayed and Frances Shand Kydd. Diana's mother, were summoned by Judge Herve Stephan, the examining magistrate in the case, to attend a hearing in Paris in June. Mrs Shand Kydd refused to speak to Mr Fayed, a snub that resulted in a torrent of ahuse outside the courthouse.

"She is pursuing her matters, I am pursuing mine," he said. "She lost her daughter and I lost my son. She's a snob. She's not a good mother either. If you leave your child when she is six years old, how can you call yourself a mother? She thinks she's related to The Queen Mother, and this is a kind of snohbery. I don't give a damn about her.'

Any chance he might ever have had of patching things up vanished in a puff of angry smoke.

"He feels that people remember Diana hut they don't give a damn about his loss. about Dodi," said the associate. "As far as he is concerned his son was going to marry Diana - he told him 20 minutes before the crash - and he was told her last

a dark-skinned chap from north Africa to become step-father to the King of England. And that hurts."

It was perhaps inevitable that, as the anniversary of Diana and Dodi's deaths approached, the two men most damaged by the tragedy should turn on each other.

When Lord Spencer opened the museum to Diana last month, Mr Fayed was astonished to find there was no reference to his son in it. Pronouncing himself "disgusted", he said: "I am sure the people who visit will be amazed there isn't a mention of Dodi's name and there are so many of Prince Charles, who hrought her so much unhappiness. Earl Spencer just wants to get back at me. Why is Earl Spencer distancing himself from the relationship between his sister and my son? He himself admitted in his speech on the day of her funeral that she had finally found happiness in her private life."

Lord Spencer had already made clear in a television interview what he thought of Mr Fayed's claims of last words and marriage. "There were no last words," he said. "Her injuries were such that it was im- ter and the other has lost a son.

possible for her to say auything. The French doctors were adamant and my family believed them. It is very upsetting that anyone should want to suggest otherwise. Why should anyone want to do that? To pretend somebody said something when they were supposedly dying? It's

indtrac

monstrous, isn't it?" On Mr Fayed's claims of a conspiracy, he said: "I have seen absolutely no evidence that it was anything other than a

tragic accident And on the prospects of Dodi and Diana marrying: "Certainly none of my family are aware of any plans for them to marry I think we all know what the early stages of a relationship are like. It is heady and exciting. Tragically their relationship never went beyond that heady stage. Speculation about what might have happened is pletely ridiculous in my view."

A year on, one can only wonder Diana would have made of it all. It is grieving, the mountains of flowers, the garine tubs bearing her signature and the hitter enmity that has grown between the men she cared for Perhaps, given her het ture, she would simply have urged us remember that one of them has lost a

We thought her death had changed us...

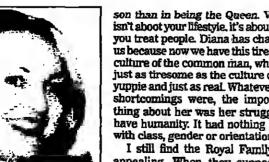
On 31 August 1997, the nation suddenly seemed a different place. Today the woman in the street is not so sure

Manda Clunes, 39, novelist When I was watching the coverage of the Omagh tragedy, some politicians said these people's lives would not be forgotten, but sadly, however devastated we are at the time, we move on. Diana will not be forgotten, the way Kennedy will not be forgotten, but this wanting to change and sticking to it is like making New Year's resolutions. We always break them. I would like to think there'd be a legacy, and in some aspects there is. I suppose there is no need to be cynical about it. But is it possible to maintain that depth of feeling? The whole thing about grief is that you

are supposed to get over it. I think we've changed, but it was not quite an overnight thing. The seeds had been sown much earlier. Diana died not long after Labour came into power so I think we were already thinking we had reached a new era that she was part of She was a reaction to all that awful Thatcherism of the Eighties, she was never in tune with that.

recently visited McDonald's, but it's just insulting to think that any of us sponding to the public approval that Diana got by taking the boys to the cinema and Thorpe Park.

Somehow we now think there is The powers that be are trying to more virtue in being a common per-



Manda Clunes: 'We've changed, but it was not an overnight thing

make the Queen change. The Queen would fall for that. I think she was re-

were upset about Diana's death is that

son than in being the Queen. Virtue isn't about your lifestyle, it's about how you treat people. Diana has changed us because now we have this tiresome culture of the common man, which is just as tiresome as the culture of the yuppie and just as real. Whatever her shortcomings were, the important thing about her was her struggle to have humanity. It had nothing to do with class, gender or orientation.

I still find the Royal Family unappealing. When they supposedly came down to be with the people outside Buckingham Palace before the funeral they stood there po-faced and inexpressive, but when a few months later their boat was being decommissioned they were in floods of tears. Whatever they thought of her, a young woman who dies leaving two children must be more important than a boat.

Anna Simons, 36, housewife, Richmond, Surrey I think one of the reasons people they can't read about what she's up to Sharanne Basham-Pyke, 36, FT any more. She spiced life up a bit I consultant, Newport, Sonth Wales don't think it has changed society, hut the paparazzi can't go nipping around hut it's worthwhile because it hrings as they used to, and that's rather nice. The only thing that changed temporarily was hypocrisy. I think people were genuinely sad. But dreadful tragedies go on all the time.

I don't think the nation has changed. There was all this talk of us becoming more caring, but I don't know what we were supposed to do. Friends of mine who donate to cancer or heart research funds have kept on giving, but I don't know of anyone who has started giving to charities just because Diana

The Royal Family has changed because it has had to be more sympathetic to the public's views. I don't know if that is healthy. If you turn the royals into one of the people their specialness waters down and they won't last. They've all lived very odd lives. I don't think I need them to turn human, but Diana was just different.

The Royal Family is an old tradition tourists. The death of Diana really affected me because I am about the same age, and have two children. I think all people could find something in her that they could relate to themselves, whether it was divorce, eating disorders, or just the shock of a young person dying. The death of a young person seems wrong and I think that was what people were grieving about

A year on, I'm dubious about the press respecting privacy, and our unity in grief was short-lived. But Diana's death was a real milestone in British history. It marked a particular time. So many people can remember what they were doing when she died, but people soon moved back to their position before; they still feel the level of sadness hut don't show it now as they did when it happened. As a nation I don't think we have changed at all. INTERVIEWS BY CAYTE WILLIAMS



THURSDAY

THE LEGACY

THE MONARCHY

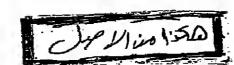


FRIDAY



SATURDAY







Playing straight

Josie Lawrence made her name as the Queen of Improv. Nowadays she's being taken seriously as an actor. So what's her real line anyway? By James Rampton

n the early Nineties, Josie Lawrence was hotter than the corrent weather in Cyprus. "With Whose Line Is It Anyway?, things just went 'whoosh' for me," the actor/comedian recalls. "People wanted me for this and that - all those articles like 'What's In My Fridge?' and Who's Under My Carpet?'."

But as surely as night follows day, backlash follows success. Lawrence's solo series on Channel 4, Josie, was scythed down by the critics like a particularly overgrown poppy. "I can talk about it now," she gulps. "I went to Italy to make the film Enchanted April and picked up a two-day-old English newspaper. The reviewers gave me such a knock; they said 'this is not funny'. I was sitting next to Joan Plowright and she said. 'this can happen in this business'. She told me about the bad reviews Larry had had. She was the perfect person to be sitting next to. It doesn't hurt to he thwacked from time-to-time. Kicks can strengthen you. But there's a point where you have to say, 'no more kicks, I'm strong enough now'."

Although the series had its high points - people still come up to her and remember fondly her "tired and emotional" sketches and Gracie Fields sendups - Lawrence reflects now that "I should have made it more wacky, like the stuff I do at the Comedy Store. Perhaps I was trying to say laffects her best Joyce Grenfell accent] 'but I'm an actress'."

No one doubts that she is an actress

self down after the critical pummelling. she immediately threw herself on to the stage. She was soon starring as Beatrice in the Manchester Royal Exchange's production of Much Ado About Nothing, for which she won the Monchester Evening News Best Actress Award, and as Kate in The Toming of

Award for Best Actress Even then, people initially accused her of first-degree counter-jumping. "There were a couple of occasions when theatre directors said, 'we won't see her because she's a comic'. It wasn't a wrong assumption. I didn't resent it, I understood it. But then as soon as you get good theatre roles, they know

picked up the Dame Peggy Ashcroft

She is proving that once again in Alarms and Excursions, the new fourhander by Michael Frayn that co-stars Felicity Kendal, Nicky Henson and Robert Bathurst and opens at the Gielgud Theatre in London's West End on 10 September. Over the course of eight vignettes bound together by the broad theme of (lack of) communication, Lawrence plays everything from a. stern wife on holiday to an air stewardess delivering a safety demonstration laden with sexual innuendo. All in all, she displays the versatility of Daley

Dressed all in black, Lawrence is

the song says: she got knocked down, bar of the Theatre Royal after a mat- and make a thousand people laugh with seemed to go down well with the good he no problem." burghers of Bath. She gives off the relaxed air of someone who, after a few wrong turnings, has safely found her way home.

theatre and on television (including three series of the ITV cricketing sitthe Shrew at the RSC, where she com Outside Edge), Lawrence remains refreshingly immune to the luvvie virus that infects so many ac-tors. Given to casting her eyes down in a manner reminiscent of another tall and glamourous woman, she is almost painfully modest: "Twe never been flirted with or been asked back to the casting-couch," she sighs with mock-sadness. "Perhaps they're scared I'll break it."

Now, at the age of 39, her one regret is that there are not better roles for women actors as they get older. "I guess that's what it's like in this business," she laments. "I'd like to have said to Shakespears, I like your work, William, but why do you write so much for men?' Also, I enjoy a girlie chat. In our dressbecause then we could both talk makeup together."

In all ber "straight" theatre, Lawrence has found her grounding in Players don't try to use it as a prop. improvisation a great source of comfort. "I just want to entertain people whether they're laughing or crying. now - and a top-class one, at that. As contentedly sipping a fruit juice in the Impro belps because if you can go on 5519) on 10 September

but she got back up again. Dusting berinée of Alarms and Excursions that no script, then a scripted piece should

She has clearly not forgotten her roots. Whenever she can, Lawrence dashes back to London for a Sunday night appointment with the impro For all her recent successes in the troupe, the Comedy Store Players, that she has kept most weeks for the past 12 years. "I wouldn't like to be one of those people who gets known for something and then pooh-poohs it when they do something else. I'm proud that I'm known for making people laugh because I know how difficult it is. If it doesn't go well, it's the worst thing in the world. If it does, it's the best. It's like sex - you still keep doing it. Impro is good therapy for us. You often think, where did that come from?'. If they sat me down in a psychiatrist's chair and asked me what I get up to on a Sunday night, they'd probably keep me in there."

All the same, Lawrence shows no signs of wanting to kick the habit. "Tve been at long Sunday lunches with friends, and when they've been able to have that extra glass of wine and I've ing-room at the Comedy Store, it's had to go off to work, I have been jealalways bloody football and cricket. I ous But once you get on stage, you forloved it when Eddie Izzard was there get that I really wouldn't mind carrying on till I'm an old dear lifting my Zimmer frame on to the stage."

She'll just have to be careful the other

'Alarms and Excursions' opens at the Gielgud Theatre, London (0171-194



Tve never flirted with the casting couch. Perhaps they're scared I'll break it'

A diva's masterclass in life, love and laughter

week long engagement in the Divas at the Donmar season comes in her seemingly out of thin air. opening song "Let me sing... and I'm happy". She sure is, and as her devoted followers will attest, she's

There are times at a Cook concert radiant voice generates kilowatts of

singing spins character and situation

Back in the 1950s, she spent evenings sneaking into Manhattan night spots to watch Judy Garland singing for pleasure. That taught her how to thread a song along an when you feel you're at a meeting of invisible dramatic line from start to the faithful but with good reason. Her finish, but if this conjures up the a song about someone who never image of overwrought emotionalism,

THE TRUEST line of Barbara Cook's role in years but who cares when her which I am extremely unhappy, geddit?", taking three minutes to run the gamut from terminal misery to suicide with show-off vibrato. Not Cook. She does detail, doesn't anticipate, and acts on the line.

Take her amused version of Duke Ellington's fairly inconsequential "I'm Beginning to See the Light". It's understood romance until now. Wally ain. Many singers go for gen. Harper's lightly finessed piano-play-

MUSIC BARBARA COOK DONMAR WAREHOUSE

as Cook, wide-eyed and confiding, goes in for a little light swing, listing all the romantic clichés she never previously understood. Then, just before the end, she leans against the piano over Harper's harmonic suspension and musingly reprises the

lantern shine..." before releasing everything on the last line in a shudder of pleasure. She's also skittish on comedy, gleefully tossing off Billy Rose's little-known and absurdly sexist hymn to domestic bliss, "When I'm Cooking Breakfast For the One I Love", dedicated to ber

"good friend Germaine Greer". Conversely, she takes a backneyed number like "This Nearly

if for the first time. Surprise and delight flood her voice and face as she builds to the exultant climax of "Tm in Love With a Wonderful Guy". Faced with a storm of applause, she shakes her head. "Boy, I tell you, that's good writing." This isn't self-deprecation. She believes she's there for the music and lyrics, rather than the other way round.

Wally Harper's sublime arrange-Was Mine" from South Pacific but ments continue to set the standard To Sot Donnor Word it. A former Broadway favourite, eralised emotions to paint the big pic- ing fairty twinkles against the strut key moments of the lyric, "afterglow, her placing of every musical and lyri- for all other cabaret artists - was it WC2 0171-369 1732

sion of Sondheim's "You Could Drive A Person Crazy"? And he and the excellent bass-player McManus get to bear Cook every night. You might be able to get in to bear her this afternoon giving an unpublicised Masterclass. Alternatively, you could just get on your knees and beg for a ticket to the show. After all, it's a masterclass in itself.

British Gas

Swedish prog rock: the soundtrack of all our lives



Soundtrack Of Our Lives - advocates of epic guitar solos, lofty lyrics and irrepressible posturing

WITH THEIR farcical hybrid of blues, country and punk, Ten Benson comprise the kind of smart humour that the music induatry is conspicuously starved of at present. Word has it that they are not yet Mulder and Scully would have signed, though they have already found their way on to one of Radio 1's Evening Sessions and have even managed to pack out one of London's stickier venues on a Monday night. Dressed in baseball caps and dickie-bows as if about to serve up a Big Mac and fries, they brim with sardonic irreverence. Their android vocals, deadpan faces and automated stures make you feel as if you have stumbled upon some eerie Lynchian apparition. It is a simply constructed and rather disarming formula designed to make you think that pressible posturing. Soundtrack

POP

SOUNDTRACK OF OUR LIVES/TEN BENSON THE GARAGE, LONDON

a field day.

They certainly provide a bizarre contrast to the combustible, guitar-driven, pseudopsychedelic Swedish act Soundtrack Of Our Lives. I would have gladly given up my enviable position under the airconditioning to find out what the two band's backstage small talk consisted of.

This hulking six-man band from Gothenburg are every inch a "rock" band - all flourcy hair, eyeliner and tight trousers. Advocates of epic guitar solos, lofty lyrics and irreare single-handedly trying to

vival. And I'm sure Emerson, Lake and Palmer didn't have nearly as much fun.

Rumours prevailed after Soundtrack's support slot with Kula Shaker last year that Paul Winterhart, Kula Shaker's Soundtrack's drummer for lessons. Sure enough, Winterhart is turking at the back of the gig, banging his head with the best of them.

Dressed in floor-length robes, vocalist Ebbert Luncherg materialises from a cloud of dry ice like a giant, beer-bellied seraph, arms aloft immock adulation, as he launches into the bizarrely titled "Chromosome Layer". The rest of the band are similarly ostentatious although . but they must be congratulatabsurdly incongruous. An archetypal Soho pin-up complete with Action Man grin, Martin

bring about a Seventies progre- Hederos entices a gaggle of glowing girls and cavorting boys in front of his keyboard while guitarist Ian Perrson's trailing blond tresses and black fingernails draw an assemblage of shaggy headbangers. Mattias Barjed is a dead ringer for Take drummer felt compelled to ask That's Mark Owen (though in possession of considerably more verve) and his performance culminates in true rockgod style when be plays his guitar with his backside.

> London crowds are notoriously difficult to please and this lot were clearly disconcerted by the ribald band of Swedes, but by the encore they were baying for more. Soundtrack's brand of psychedelic rock may sound dated at times ed for the sheer effrontery of

FIONA STURGE



EDINBURGH FESTIVAL'98

Are Brits coming or going?

The image of Cool Britannia may have taken a pasting from The Avengers, but a new batch of British films show that we are capable of doing another Monty, if we don't try too hard. By Liese Spencer

"THE BRITISH are coming" proclaimed the Oscar-winner Colin Welland back in 1982, and it's a rallying call that has been echoing hollowly down the years ever since. Still, if the Hollywood invasion never quite happened, hope and hype spring eternal. Not a year goes past without the trumpeting of a renais-sance in UK cinema. Last year's Edinburgh find, The Full Monty. sent a ripple of excitement through the industry all over again, but did this film really mark a revival or was its international box office success just a happy accident?

Open this week's American trade rag. Variety, and you'll be in no doubt as to the answer. "The myth of Cool Britannia was laid to rest Aug 14" reads the paper's front page, "when Warner Bros let the world see why it was so embarrassed by The Avengers," This year's "least cool" movie, they suggest, is symptomatic not only of Hollywood's misplaced enthusiasm for swinging London, but also of an uncertain UK industry trying "to square last year's hype with this year's reality". So are the British coming or going? Edin-burgh Film Festival, with its special section devoted to the first fruits of Britain's lottery-funded production boom, seems as good a place as any

Here are movies that challenge both what it means to be a "British film", and established notions of national identity. David Yates's impressive feature debut The Tichborne Claimant puts a pleasing, post-colonial spin on the atrophied period picture with its tall tale of the 19th-century butcher who became a pretender to a Victorian baronetcy. Narrated by his African manservant Bogle, the film's enjoyably convoluted plot travels from the Australian outback to the music halls of London, deftly dismantling imper-

ialist myths along the way. Stuffed with a sterling supporting from Sir John Gielgud to Stepben Fry, The Tichborne Claimant has all staple, the costume drama. But the sheer skill with which Yates plots and paces his expansive story marks it out from the film arm of our heritage business as an altogether more lively prospect. Hugely entertaining, The Tichborne Claimant has a visual eloquence that deserves to be seen on the big screen - whether it makes it there is another matter. De-



Seaside noir from 'I Want You' (above) and Jason Connery in the chilling 'Urban Ghost Story' (below)

spite interest from Paramount, the film has yet to find a distributor. "Audience reactions have been

very positive," says Yates, "which is good, because I know that from a marketing perspective It's a nightmare. It doesn't have a love story and it's not all about frocks and production values, so it's hard to flog. Our greatest challenge is to ensure we come up with a campaign which gets people into cinemas to see it." On the British scene, Yates does

recognise a "new buoyancy", but reckons that "we need to develop our screenwriting base". He also voices the common concern that while cast of venerable British actors Brits have always been best at television, they are still working to a small-screen aesthetic. "I think we medium, make films with a broader canvas. I also think the people who commission and fund films in this country need to be more creative in the way they perceive the market. To buck the trend, instead of trying to make another Four Weddings, or

another Full Monty." Like The Tichborne Claimant. Sandra Goldbacher's good-looking



a subversive slant on Britishness. with its story of a young Jewish woman in Victorian Britain who masquerades as a gentile to get a job as a governess. The film has done brisk husiness in the States, and the crowd-pulling presence of Minnie Driver in the lead should ensure further success. Harriet Walter, who plays Driver's insipid employer in

of original, authentic storytelling. Without being nationalistic, 1 think the important thing is to tell the stories of your culture. I love seeing a British film that tells a universally recognisable story hut remains intrinsically British. So I get depressed when I see imitation Tarantinos. I think we should be true to our own experience and our own puritanical. Look what's going on erness, (Fri 28, Cam 1)

forms of expression and not try to please an American market, because we usually please them when

Marcus Robinson

Sometimes, she argues, such tales are best told by non-British di-rectors. "Tve worked with Ang Lee on Sense and Sensibility and now Rose Troche on Bedrooms and Hallways, and f think as outsiders they can offer a new perspective on these different versions of British society." Largely financed with money from France and Germany, Bedrooms and Hallways is Troche's follow-up feature to her independent hit, Go Fish. Set in contemporary London, it's a hip comedy of manners focusing on the messy, but ultimately liberating mutability of modern ual flair to her handling of this feelgood farce, but hasn't she bought into

the "swinging London" hype?
"f think you guys overestimate how uptight you are about sex," she says. "You believe your own press we all believe our own press. I mean, Americans believe that we're more open, but we're in fact really with Clinton and Zippergate. When it comes to talking about national identity, we believe our own

stereotypes."
Two films that escape scenic clichés to explore a very different physical and psychological "British" landscape are Genevieve Jolliffe's Urban Ghost Story and Michael Winterbottom's I Want You. Set on a grim, high-rise estate in Glasgow, Jolliffe's film filters kitchen sink social realism through horror films such as The Poltergeist and The Exorcist to produce a genuinely haunting work. I Want You, meanwhile, is a ravishing reworking of the British seaside noir. Using sensuous, colour-saturated images to enchant and estrange the viewer, Winterbottom locates his small-town thriller in a world that feels at once familiar and disturbingly foreign.

Whether discovering new settings or reimagining old ones, whether debunking historical myths or contemporary stereotypes, these movies seem evidence of a refreshingly diverse and ambitious definition of Britishness and "British cinema". But the bottom line is that the British renaissance will burn out unless these new films make money.

Jason Connery, who stars in Urban Ghost Story, argues that the greatest problem facing British cinema is its lack of a centralised, commercial base. "A lot of people pooh-pooh the American studio sysem," he says, "but it creates the environment to make films, and then that money is reinvested. It's all very well to say you want to make edgy, little independent films that 17 people see, but you also need to

make blockbusters." Paradoxically, the British film industry's lack of a profit-hungry studio system continues to be one of its strengths. Compare the inventive, low-budget Tichborne Claimant with the Hollywood-sponsored retrofolly that is The Avengers and you begin to get an idea of what today's grass-roots production boom is all about. With funding and confidence in which talented, first-time filmmakers have a far greater chance of getting their movies made.

'The Tichborne Claimant' (Wed 26, Carneo 1), 'Urban Ghost Story' (Wed 26, GFT; Fri 28 FH2), 'I Want You', (Thu 27 Cam2), Bedrooms and Hallways' (Thu 27, Cam 1), The Gov-

An epic need for intimacy

THEATRE THE LOOKALIKES

EXPECT those who sit sternly in judgement of contemporary English theatre have the German writer – sorry, "dramaturge" – Botho Strauss, and director Peter Stein in mind when they pooh-pooh our homegrown playwrights for their middlebrow ambitions.

Performed in its original German with English subtitles and weighing in at an epic threeand-a-half hours, The Lookalikes on these terms alone is demanding. It is broken into six superficially unconnected minidramas. In the title piece, two brothers thrown together by reunification plan to build a theme park of German myth and legend, wrangling all the while over a prostitute the pair of them regularly visit. In "Beginning and End", a woman about to commit suicide on an Alpine peak rails against a potential rescuer even as she coerces him into what she sees is the inevitable conclusion of their encounter - her rape at his hands.

Though the human drama of these tales is undeniable, Strauss appears to be aiming at larger, mythical conflicts altogether less apparent. This immanence rings a little hollow.

Where Strauss does seem to hit his nebulous target - that contemporary society suffers from its increasing bomogeneity - is in its more intimate moments. At one point a dysfunctional mother comments that "the centre of the world lies where error is at its most dense". In another, two parents exchange psychobabble with one another while their borrifically mutilated daughter threatens to take them to court for ever allowing ber to be born. Or, in a scene which elicits the evening's first un-

This review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper

and a woman debate a situation

in which the man finds himself

attracted and repelled by his

lover in exactly equal

proportions.

MIKE HIGGINS

Naked concealment

-YOU COULD say this was o Post-Modern item of clothing." Ursula Martinez says, touting a T-shirt on which is printed an image of berself. her father and mother, all absolutely starkers. "You're clothing yourself in nakedness." You could also say that A Family Outing is a Post-Modern item of theatre. Like some philosophical riddle, it generates layers of concealment through acts of seemingly intimate disclosure.

Every night, Martinez plonks mum (62-year-old Mila) and Dad (75 year-old Arthur) onto a sofa next to her for a spot of "aversion therapy" ther particular aversion being lifelong embarrassment at their behaviour). And to "reveal

THEATRE

A FAMILY OUTING ASSEMBLY ROOMS

are". There they sit, like bernused chat show guests, while she attempts with supreme nonchalance to extract some bome truths, utilising cutely customised pop cultural formats such as Mr and Mrs and Stars in their Eyes.

They open up, divulging the trivial and the telling detail: Arthur had no idea that Mila drank goats' milk; they married, he insists, hecause "we were both at a ioose end". But a few references to o script are sufficient to warn family relationships as they really the audience off taking every aside

or bout of hickering at face value. By the time Arthur has produced his text to find out what his response to his daughter's lesbianism should be, the point has been made that most families wouldn't share their true feelings about each other even under torture. You have to admire Martinez's inspired theatrical conceit - directed by Mark Whitelaw, who is prohably a genius - hut the chances are, you'll be too busy

Until 5 Sep. Tickets £8 (0131-226 DOMINIC CAVENDISH

wondering at the chutzpah of the

old timers, which only just stops

short of stripping completely.

Van really is the Mann

WHAT IS a festival for, if not to do things normally impossible, such as bringing together works that will gain from juxtaposition? At Edinhurgh this year that includes assembling three Dutch dance companies and 13 ballets created over 34 years to show the style and achievement of Europe's senior choreogra-

pher, Hanz van Mann. The Dutch National Ballet, in sparkling form, led off with four works ranging from the oldest to one of the newest. Metaphors may be 33 years old hut came over as fresher and more original than anything our resent choreographers can offer All its dances are based on mirror images, echoes or visual rhymes, yet they never look contrived.

DANCE DUTCH NATIONAL BALLET PI AVHOUSE

Van Mann's bold originality has not deserted him. It is apparent in the latest work on this programme, Three Pieces for Het, premiered only last year, where he stands expectations on their head by starting big in a strong ensemble for two men, six women and then drops to a cast of two, hut accelerating the iropetus of invention in their hreakneck solos before letting that same couple complete the pattern in a slow dying fall, an extraordinarily

The middle period (Trois Gnossi-

ennes) is a small, quirky duel, a duet that matches the elegance and eccentricity of Satie's piano music (played on stage with the instrument pushed around to slow the chase of the dancers). Using a hig man and tiny woman allows him to move her in unexpected, amusing lifts; and at the end it gives an illusion that she

floats right up and away out of sight. A fine Dutch tango sextet, Canyengue, play Astor Piazolla's music for 5 Thingos, the programme's most familiar work, where the men of the ballet show brilliantly in their brooding obsessive power, while the women develop a quiet, self-con-tained response; excellent dancing in outstanding choreography.

JOHN PERCIVAL

FESTIVAL

EYE

Enter the Fringe's answer to Woody Alien, David Tabatsky, an American comedian whose show at Calders' Gilded Balloon II Upstairs, True Stories & Other Bullshit, has just started its eight-day run. Not only is Tabatsky a diminutive Jewish stand-up from New York, he's also the busband of Ute Lemper, the blond goddess in the recent revival of Chicago. In another Allenesque quirk, Tabatsky honed his act by touring extensively in, of all places, Germany, where apparently he went down a storm. Obviously a cosmopolitan man.

BITE:98 THE NINAGAWA COMPANY A CLASSIC RETOLD WITH EXQUISITE VISUAL STYLE BY THE CELEBRATED MAGICIAN OF JAPANESE THEATRE - NINAGAWA Barbican Theaire 28 August - 3 September Barbican Centre

DAY PLANNER

THEATRE 11.30-12.15 Play Wisty for Me: The Life of Peter Cook. Few people could speak with the voice of EL Wisty as surely as Matthew Perret in this two-man show about Cook's life and work. ft never outstays its welcome and individual gags are hilarious. Pleasance Below, to 31 Aug. £5-£6 (£4-£5)

12 NOON

11 AM

THEATRE

12.36-2.00 Richard IIL Malachai Bogdanov's toddler version of the Shakespeare play may rob the characters of their full range, but the cast achieve the fusion of kindergarten and courtly intrigue with aplomb. Pleasance, Venue 33, today and tomorrow, £8 (£6).

THEATRE 4.35-5.35 Tamogotchi Heaven. Adults-only tragi-comic tale of a woman and her cyberpet. Pleasance (venue 33), 60 The Pleasance (556 6550). Price £6.50 (£5,50). Until 31 Aug.

COMEDY 4.50-5.50 Peepolykus – Horses for Courses. Ssurreal comedy thriller. Pleasance (venue 33), 60 The Pleasance (556 6550). Price E7 (£6). Until 31 Aug.

DANCE

7.20-10.30 Destino Tango. With Dutch maestros Sexteto Can-yengue and dancers Club Tango 5. Graffiti, corner of Broughton and East Lon-



Peepolykus, 4.50pm

don Streets. Price £8.50 (ET.50). To 31 Aug

DANCE 8.15-9.30 Cool Beat, Urban Heat One of the most exciting American dance shows of

the year. Rapid-fire jazz plus the power of hip-hop. Gilded Balloon. Price £9.50 (£8.50). To 5 Sept.

9PM

9.00-10.00 Jason Byrne, Frenetic and lunatic humour from one of this year's serious Perrier contenders. The king of off-the-cuff, he takes look-at-me petulance to an art form. His first solo Edinburgh show. Pleasance (venue 33). Price £7.50 (£6.50). Until 31 Aug.

COMEDY 9.25-10.25 Al Murray: the

Pub Landlord, Keeper of the Pint Cosmic. Cruelly denied the Perrier Award on two previous occasions, Murray returns for a third stint behind the bar with his acute observations on just

what it means to be male

and British. Not to be missed. Pleasance (venue 33). Price £8.50 (£7.50). Until 31 Aug

COMEDY

9.45-10.45 Junior Simpson. More up-to-the minute material from the popular standup who dares to tackle issues such as the flasco surrounding the Stephen Lawrence trial Assembly Rooms, to 30 Aug, £9-£10 (£8-£9)

10PM

COMEDY 10.15-I1.15 The League Against Tedium. Simon Munnery's megalomaniacal creation - an antidote to middle-of-the-road comedy blues and an outside bet for this year's Perrier

Award. Pleasance Above (venue 33). Price £8-£9 (£7-£8), Until 31

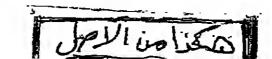
TICKET **OFFERS**

Take today's Independent to one of the venues below:

The Pleasance (venue 33) 5.55-6. 45 pm; 5 free pairs of tickets for the first 5 people at the Box Office to see Universal Grinding Wheel's I don't know if you're familiar with the voodoo phenomenon of zombie, but...

Calder's Gilded Balloon at the Honeycomb (venue 139): 5-6.15pm: 10 free pairs of tickets for the first 10 people at the Box Office to see The Empire Strikes Black. Marcus Powell of BBC2's The A Force meets one of Hackney's New Acts Of The Year, Jocelyn G.

Calder's Gilded Balloon Wee Room (venue 36): 11.30pm-12.30am: 5 free pairs of tickets for the first five people at the Box Office to see Late Laffs. Comics Joe Heenan and Janey Godley.



Sim there

The clockwork wordplay whose time has come

Samuel Beckett's bizarre, explicit monologue All Strange Away has been buried for years. But then he never knew what to do with it himself. By Dominic Cavendish

Samuel called All Strange page after page of that Away, Nigel Roper and Mark Stuart Currie were met either stumped by their request for the rights to perform it, as they had never heard of it.

Everett Frost, at the Beckett International and adjectives, we catch a disturbing. Foundation, who had heard of it, told muted narrative. them that they were probably insane.

deter a company called Asylum. The pair Beckett played down All Strange Away. "I persisted and the resulting premiere of a text written in 1964 has been one of the resounding triumphs of the Fringe Festival. The case for All Strange Away as a piece of theatre has now been forcefully made. It may not quite be up there with Beckett's most celebrated monologues - Krupp's Last Tape, say, or Rockaby - but, judging by the approval with which it has been

hen they declared light. No visible source, glare at full, concentration is a mechanism against their intention to spread all over, no shadow, all six planes stage a work by shining the same, slow on, ten seconds on Beckett earth to full, same off, try that." Imagine

But when the same words are uttered in a monotone hush by Mark Stuart Currie, with blank looks or raised eyebrows. Beck- in near-darkness, eyes closed, an anonyett's theatre agents, Curtis Brown, were mous, young man in a suit, crouched absurdly in a children's sandpit, the effect is

And in that narrative, Nigel Roper, the Insane is not the kind of barb that would director, believes, may lie the reason why just don't think he put it in a drawer and forgot about it," he says.

him problems in those days. More impor- the question." tantly, there's a recurrent image of a woman in the text, who matches descriptions of the woman he fell passionately in love with at university, Ethna MacCarthy.

appalling absence. The whole thing could be described as

a process of relentless scene-setting, building towards a vanishing point where all that remains is a faint memory of lying, side-

It required a bold leap of faith, however, to believe that this could hold an audience for 50 minutes. Roper chanced across the text in a rare American edition of Beckett plays in Reading University library, earlier this year. "It was the most unusual and compulsive monologue that I'd ever read. I assumed that it had been done countless times before and that it was a gap in my knowledge. I was stunned to discover that, apart from a performance at La Mama For one thing, there is sexually explicit

Theatre in New York in 1984, no one had language, which would still have caused done it. How to do it right, though, that was done it. How to do it right, though, that was

There were none of Beckett s notoriously precise stage directions. On one hand, this was something of a hiessing: the Beckett estate is a fearsome guard of the playwright's intentions (as Deborah Warner discovered to her cost when it blocked a tour of her split-level Footfalls).

On the other, they were anxious to respect the spirit of the piece. "The first thing we did in rehearsals was to show and tell everything in the text," Roper explains. "We even played it for laughs. Then we began discarding anything that didn't work, simplifying and centralising everything. The desire at each stage was to do less, to a point where almost nothing happens and yet something happens."

Edward Petherbridge, currently performing his acclaimed RSC version of Krapp's Last Tope (a golden opportunity to compare and contrast the two works), trayal of Beckett's solitary old spoolplayer: "It's a play in which one is constantly in danger of doing too much, but you can never come away from it confident that you've done enough.'

Less is more with Beckett and, not surprisingly, Asylum's minimalistic approach has reaped dividends. Representatives from the Beckett estate came to see it and gave it the thumbs-up, and four major London venues have expressed a desire to take the show after Edinburgh.

Although this is not the first stage adaptation of a Beckett piece deemed to be prose (actors Jack MacGowran, David Warrilow and George Tabori all had a crack, with Beckett's permission), Dr Julian Garforth, of the Beckett International Foundation, believes the success of All Strange Away could have a significant impact on future productions of Beckett "Because this adaptation has been given permission to go ahead and worked. Asylum may have set a precedent for other people to ask the estate if they can do different things.

But this kind of adaptation may well pave the way for other interesting prose adaptations. Not that Asylum have got their minds too set on the long term: the concern right now is how they're going to dash from the Pleasance to the Assembly Rooms when the performance does over-lap this weekend, lugging eight bags of sand. Imagine that.

'All Strange Away', Pleasance (0131-556 6550) to 31 August, and concurrently at the Assembly Rooms, 'Krapp's Last Tape', Assembly Rooms (0131-226 2428) to 5 September, quotations from 'All Strange Away by kind permission of Calder Publications (0171-633 0599)



Mark Stuart Currie in 'All Strange Away' (above) and Edward Petherbridge in 'Krapp's Last Tape' (above left): a golden opportunity to compare and contrast

greeted, it's clear that the critical reevaluation has only just begun. . You can see why All Strange Away

might have lain in obscurity for so long. It remained unpublished for over 10 years. the author himself not seeming to know what to do with it. In his massive biography of the writer, Damned to Fame, James Knowlson briefly mentions that Beckett was working in French and English on a new prose text that, for a long time, refused to assume any sort of satisfactory shape. The eventual outcome was an overcomplex text in English.

Certainly, on the page, All Strange Away is an arduous business: it reads like a bundle of fastidious, syntax-free notes: a steady stream of hypothetical assemhlings and dismantlings, in which every imaginative step is measured with deadly, mathematical accuracy - a kind of clockwork wordplay, where the clock hand keeps jumping back.

Take these lines, for example: "Imagine

It was a relationship that was never consummated All Stronge Away was written five years after her death, but her husband was still alive. Beckett had been previously embarrassed when people pointed out certain connections between his life and his early work, and had resolved never to let

In the piece, the speaker fixates on a woman called Emma, picturing her as a passive, almost lifeless, object within a space as inhospitable as a mansoleum. His anatomisation of her is clinical, surgical and explicit ("Fancy her being all kissed, licked, sucked, fucked and so on by all that, no sound"). When Currie's eyes open, they suggest the deadness, not of a psychopath, hut of someone worn out by grief and loss.

As he tenderly manipulates a small doll

that happen again.

into various positions, like some autistic puppeteer ("Emma lying on her left side, arse to knees along diagonal db with arse towards d and knees towards h though neither at either"), we sense that his absolute

Too much of the bard, no matter how much you like it

THE BATH Shakespeare Festival in seven-hour megadoses the opportunity to see the English Shakespeare Company's latest offerings performed back-to-back. But only those with buttocks of steel and the kind of upbringing where one had to eat one's cabbage in order to get one's ice-cream should avail themselves of this offer. Despite dramaturge Ros King's attempt in the programme notes to find some parallels between the two plays, their presentation together goes mainly to highlight the fact that even Shakespeare had his off-days, with the sweeping grandeur of Aniony and Cleopatra standing head and shoulders above the feeble complications of As You Like It.

Both directed by Michael Bogdanov, leading exponent of "bringing Shakespeare to the people", the productions are uncompromisingly contemporary in their approach. They both feature the same compa-

ny of 14 actors, and utilise the by now offers anyone who likes their Bard customary mixture of stripped down sets and modern day dress. No one has yet managed to satisfactorily explain why Kalashnikov-toting soldiers should carry swords, though.

Unfortunately, the limitations of the sets in both plays remove the opportunity to envelop Egypt in the rich stench of incense and decadence - the very aspect which so delights and repels the Roman visitors - or engender the similar intoxication of the mystical Forest of Arden. Yannis Thavoris's set for As You Like It consists of three mobile chrome and smoked glass towers fitted with venetian blinds. The cool clinicality of this stylistic minimalism leaves the Forest a stark and sterile place, lacking the magical and transformative strangeness and fecundity which might explain the explosion of love and lust which occurs within it. The staging and costuming of tha Forest scenes are more Gropes of Wrath than Robin Hood, which does

at least allow Bogdanov to transform the endless songs littering the play into foot-tapping guitar and harmonica blues numbers.

Meanwhile, back in Egypt, Geraldine Bunzl's inspiration appears to come - appropriately enough - from the Memphis School, with a sleek Docklands concoction of green marhie and obelisks (domestic size) reminiscent of the atrium of a transpational investment bank A not inappropriate image, since Tim Woodward's Antony is a middleaged man at the peak of his career, revelling - like any successful phutocrat in the bar of the Waldorf Astoria - in the power which has accrued to him and the beauty of the histful career girl on his arm.

In this Battle of the Suits, Octavius (David Shelley) is the Bill Gates of Antiquity, the unlikely young geek sweeping all before him. Woodward also makes a solid impression in As You Like It, playing wandering fear and then run a country in con-courtier Jacques as the mackintosh flict with her personal desires. In

AS YOU LIKE IT, ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA -THEATRE ROYAL.

and trilby-clad Irishman who can be found propped in the corner of many a pub, dispensing misanthropy and philosophy over a glass of whisky. In this persona, Jacques' world-weariness and omnipresence become considerably less contrived.

Meanwhile, back in Egypt (again). Cathy Tyson seizes the role of Cleopatra and plays it at full strength. This is no vapid, droopy, expiring fag-end of a royal line, drowning in the decadence of excess. She is also far from the languid animal that one might expect from Tyson. This is a woman who combines regality with playfulness: a practical joking, hard-drinking success in her own right who can run the gamut of emotion from lust to

Type 's Cleopatra, one can clearly see the conflict between the head that the crown of Egypt and

benefit of using a small cast to restrict both plays is that it allows truly lilented actors to reveal their even when covering a handful of smaller roles. In this regard, John Labanowski and David Mara demonstrate how Shakespeare can be delivered not as an old and valued relic hut as drama fresh from the pen. When Labanowski's ed veteran, Enobarbus, bes "The barge she sat in, like a land and d throne", it could be a segment taken from tomorrow's From Our Carespondent. His peras Charles the Wrestlerin As It. Like It, with its clarity and co to the course feel, suggests that he the potential to give us a Falstaff ft r the 21st century.

Mara meanwhile, covers a sweep of mis from rustic Corin to manage at maestro Lepidus with

style which proves that blank verse need not be delivered with the strithe heart that loves Mark Antony dent emphases and stylised diction so often deployed when "playing the Bard". If one of the ESC's mis-

> sions is to make Shakespeare appealing to a 1990s audience, then it could do far worse than continue promoting these two fine actors. Any production which seeks to do new things with old material will, unavoidably feature ideas that don't quite work. As You Like It contains a bizarre dream scene in which Rosalind, and a rap version of "It was a lover and his lass" which, whilst amusing, is startlingly incongruous. Contemporisation is fine if it abides

by the rules of its own internal logic. Both plays also feature set pieces which go on too long, breaking the rhythm of the performance: the wrestling contest in As You Like It Both plays run until 29 August, Box and Pompey's dance feast in Antony

and Cleopatra. There are also

excellent pacing, versatility and a enjoyable touches, such as the prologue to the latter in which breathless journalists provide the historical background for those lacking a classical education.

Overall, these plays are solid presentations of familiar scripts. That they do little to advance the contemporary interpretation of Shakespeare, and represent merely a consolidation of some of the groundbreaking work that has gone before, is probably in their favour in attempting to draw a fresh mass audience to Shakespeare's work Orlando becomes a deer killed by Antony and Cleopatra is a play which will appeal as much today as any television drama. And any suggestion that As You Like It is worth avoiding is probably just the crabbing of a critic who has sat too long in a theatre wishing he was watching one of Shakespeare's better comedies.

office: (01225) 448844

TOBY O'CONNOR MORSE

Babies need lots of love and financial investment

It's never too early to start planning for your baby's future.

By **Andrew** Couchman

THE BIRTH or adoption of a first child is an event that every parent looks forward to with both excitemeot and fear. New parents take oo
the frightening responsibility for
the life of a helpless human being.
That is balanced, though, hy moments of great joy such as his or her first step, word or smile.

In the event, bringing up children is all too often much harder work than we expect. Yet few parents would have it any other way.

The one exception to that rule is when it comes to finance. Many parents start a family when their income is still low, the mortgage is enormous and investment capital is low. Despite that, almost overnight a new set of financial responsibilities has been taken on.

When planning how best to manage the situation, your priority should be protection. Many people will have life cover, usually up to four times their income, as part of their pension, and that route is always the best place to start because premiums can be offset against tax. The downside is that, if you change or lose your job, the life cover goes too.

Derek Brown, of the independent financial advisors Warwick Butchart and Associates, recommends family income benefit for many families.

This provides an annual income in the event of death. In the past, such cover was often written to the child's 18th or 20th birthday. Now, with one in three school leavers going on to further education, a longer term – perhaps to age 25 – is more popular. As the cover is effectively decreasing as you get older, it can be very cheap.

GA Life would charge a 30-yearold man £12.18 a month for £10.000 a year cover, for 25 years. If he died in the first year, the insurer would pay out a total of £250,000. If he died after 10 years the total would have fallen to £150,000.

The need for life cover falls away as children grow up and are no longer so financially dependent, but your surviving partner will still need to live, and estate planning may then be important too. Generally, however, beware of any adviser who argues that you oeed enough life cover to provide an inflation-linked income in perpetuity. As financial commitments fall away in the future, so does the oeed for life cover.

How much cover do you need? Four times income is usually a minimum, but the way to calculate it is to work out how much you would need to pay off any capital commitments such as mortgages and loans, then how much income your surviving family would need to live on. and for how loog.

Even if one parent is not working, consider life cover on both, together with critical illness, to give a lump illness, and income protection, to get a monthly income, in the event of long-term illness or disability.

Many critical illness plans now include free cover for dependent children up to £15,000, or half the sum assured if less.

Savings are particularly important for a child's future education. At



was considered. Now, the need for university tuition fees means that many students may end up in debt. Building up savings for them can

help minimise the size of their eventual debt. Often, grandparents and other relatives also welcome the opportunity to help youngsters save sum on suffering a life-threatening for the future, especially if the illness, and income protection, to get money is to be used for education. Private school fees cost, on av-

> erage, around £4,000 a year for boarders, and £1,700 for day pupils, and planning to pay those fees is best started before the child is born, in order to give the longest possible time for the investment to build up. Many parents start to think seri-

a first school. Generally, if there is less than five years to go, in est as your money."

Some independent schools run much as you can afford into deposit savings. In the longer term, Tessas, Peps and unit trust savings plans are likely to prove better. Endovment assurance-linked schemes may give

advantages to higher-rate tanguyers,

hut often with a lack of flexibility. Fiona Price, of Fiona Price and Partners, independent financal advisers in London, warns against prepackaged school fees irvestments: "The problem with many packages," she says, "is that they can prove to be inflexible and juite

one time, only school fees planning ously about it only when their off- choose from what's available in the life. With careful planning, howspring already have a name down at market. That way it will meet your needs, and you can get best value for

> charitable trusts, which can give in-come tax benefits, but these are best considered only if the child will defconsidering school fees planning, make sure you have sufficient protection cover too," Fiooa Price warns. "Many parents often overlook the fact that if they are no longer alive there may be no one to con- 971 1177 tinue paying the school fees."

When children are small, parents expensive. It is usually best to as get accustomed to a new way of Report"

ever, they can do so with the peace of mind that comes with knowing that the family is protected against the worst eventualities, while savings are also being built up to help the children out as they get older.

initely attend that school. "If you are Fiona Price & Partners: 0171-430 0366. Warwick Butchart & Associntes: 01242 237155. General Accident Life: 0500 100 200. For a list of independent financial advisers near you, call IFA Portfolio on 0117

Andrew Couchman is the publishoften have to face sacrifices as well ing editor of "Health Insurance

Accountants who cheat leaseholders

If service charges are not properly submitted, complain. The law is on your side. By Karen Woolfson

THE INSTITUTE of Chartered Accountants (ICA) is clamping down on members who fail to produce service charge accounts that comply with landlord and tenant legislation and has recently launched a number of investigations. The ICA is using its powers to fine members and is prepared, in the most serious cases, to strip them of the ability to work as "chartered"

Victor Boorman & Co, Sussex-based accountants. have just heen fined £1,000 plus costs following the investigation of a complaint to the ICA. It was found that the summaries of service charge costs produced over three years for eight blocks of leasehold flats along the south coast did not comply with Section 21(5) of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985.

This is a serious breach of the law: leaseholders must be given a clear hreakdown of the service charges, so that they can see how their money is spent. The flats in question are wned by Anthony John Scrivens, a landlord who has inadvertently motivated hundreds of leaseholders to unite along the south coast. Danny McEvoy, a

easeholder living in Sillwood Gate, one of the blocks involved in the investigation comments: "The Institute of Chartered Accountants decision to fine Boorman & Co is good news. Failure to comply with Section 21(5) is ust one more thing we have . found some accountants. managers and freeholders are doing to mislead leaseholders. The present system has to go."

Many leaseholders are in a similar predicament. If you are one of them, then it is worth reading Section 21 of the Landlord & Tenant Act to see exactly what your rights are and how the service charge The tenancy relations department of local authorities are good starting-points, as are the Coalition for the Abolition of Residential Leaseholds, and the Leasehold Advisory Service.

You have the right to receive a written summary of the costs relevant to the service charges payable. Flatowners represented by a recognised tenants' association can ask the secretary to request this. The landlord must then comply with your request within one month, or six months of the

end of the accounting period

covered by the summary. The details provided must state whether any of the costs relate to works in respect of which a grant has been or is to be paid under Section 523 of the Housing Act 1985. It must also show how the costs are reflected in demands for service charges. There are other requirements too, for which some accountants are currently been investigated.

Summaries must be provided of costs for which:

 No demand for payment was received by the landlord within the period in question.

• A demand for payment was received hut no payment was made by the landlord

within the period. A demand for payment was received and payment was made within this period.

These items are crucial to making service charge accounts transparent, so that leaseholders can form a true picture of how their money is

being spent.
If there are more than four flat-owners in the block then the summary must be certified by a qualified accountant who is wholly independent and therefore must not be a leaseholder on the premises or an officer, partner, agent or

The ICA is using its powers to fine members and - in the most serious cases - to strip them of their 'chartered' status

employee of the landlord. He or she must be a member of the Institute of Chartered Accounts, the Association of Certified Accounts or another body recognised by the Secretary of State.

If your service charge accounts do not comply with the legislation, write a short letter of complaint giving clear points of actual data to the ICA and they will carry out an investigation. If the accountant is not a member of the ICA, he or she may belong to the Scottish equivalent or another should be able to point you in the right direction.

The future looks promising. The possibility of introducing a regulator for accountants. managing agents, freeholders and anyone else involved in property management is currently being explored by the Government. This could be brought under the wing of the personal investment authority along with financial advisers: after all, property is one of the biggest investments, yet to date it has escaped the might of a Government regulator.

You are welcome to write to Karen Woolfson, Homebattles, c/o Nick Cicutti, The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf. London E14 5DL, Karen regrets she is unable to reply personally to all letters.

ICA: 01908 248100. Carl: PO Box 3076, Littlehampton, West Sussex BN17 5BT. Leas: 0171-493 3116 for details of your local council's Tenancy Relations Officer

CONFUSED BY ISAs?

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Make friends with a nice little earner

Friendly societies can now compete with the big boys. By Simon Read

providers are counting down the days until April 1999, when their products may no longer be sold and will be replaced by new-style Individual Savings Accounts. For the UK's friendly societies, however, the new ISA accounts will represent an ad-

ditional opportunity.

The Chancellor has announced that friendly societies will he able to offer ISAs, in addition to their existing tax-free 10-year savings plans. It effectively means that they will be able to compete on more or less level terms with the big institutions when it comes to attracting savers.

However, the chances of friendly societies spending massive amounts on advertising new ISAs is slim. In reality, they are likely to continue offering their members a range of free status. However, the life as- However, some of the cash But an illustration from Home-

At the heart of the friendly pretty small and the accounts are generally sold as savings

society leal is the 10-year savings plan. These accounts can schemes. offer tai-free savings because they contain an element of life assurance. "Friendly societies provides nicely packaged savings product which grows taxfree," says Barry Chambers, marketing director at Family Assurance, one of the leading years - cashing in early could societies. "A lot of people earmark the cash for a particular event, such as wedding anniversary celebrations, or just some cash for children or uni-

versity osts." encourage people to have adequate lie assurance and that's why the plans are granted tax- wards paying those charges.

products with few frills or costs. surance element of the plan is will also be invested on your owners Friendly Society shows

The maximum monthly amount you can put into a friendly society 10-year savings plan is £25, or savers. can invest up to £270 a year. To get the full tax-free status, the plans must be maintained for 10 mean a tax liability or the revested on your behalf. turn of less than you've paid in.

Returns on the friendly soc-Worse, if the plan is closed iety plans will be hit by the cost before 12 monthly payments have been made, there will be of life cover and expenses and no return of cash at all. This is charges, although friendly so-The Government is keen to because of the life assurance cieties - stung hy criticism element. Payments in the early about the size of charges years predominantly go tohave been working hard to reduce costs as much as possible.

behalf to ensure a pay-out after

The investment is managed in much the same way as any other - by professional fund managers who use their expertise to get maximum returns. In essence, the plans work in exactly the same way as endowment policies where some of the premiums pay for the life cover, and the rest is in-

that someone investing the maximum amount each month - 3,000 over 10 years - would pay £598 in deductions, producing a real effect of a £970 deduction from their fund. These deductions would bring investment growth of 9 per cent down

to just 4.7 per cent a year.

But not using a friendly society savings plan means lesing out on the tax benefits. IFA Promotion, a marketing body promoting independent financial advice, calculates that people already saving with an endowment policy are wasting £50m a year in tax by not saving in a friendly society.

Too many people overlook friendly societies when planning their savings and invest-

ments," says David White, head of sales and marketing at Tunhridge Wells Equitable. "As far as using their tax-free premium allowances is concerned, my advice is use it or lose it."

There are, in fact, hundreds of friendly societies around the country, but only a few offer products to the general public. Most restrict themselves to providing a range of benefits for their members. The largest national friendly society is Liverpool Victoria,

Looking ahead, the societies would like to see an increase in the amount of cash people can save in their 10-year plans. "We would like to see the Chancellor increase the limit," says Barry Chambers, "The accounts are already attractive to those who like having to save regularly. An increased limit

Private health care can provide peace of mind - at a price. How can you get the best deal for you and your family? By Nic Cicutti

Perils of your private medical cover

non-essential operation to remedy a minor medical problem. How nice it would be to select an operation date, the hospital, and even the

surgeon of your choice. The ability to do this is in sharp contrast to the often lengthy wait the same level of cover for themwhen receiving the same treat-ment through the NHS. For up to 6 them up to £1,000 a year each. million people, this is an option available to them thanks to the private medical insurance (PMI) they are covered under

PMI is not cheap, however, and this is, perhaps, why the vast majority of those with cover have it courtesy of their employers, who usually operate group-wide schemes. Which is fine, as long as you are working for a firm that is prepared to pay the premiums. But what happens if you join a firm where cover is not one of the perks on offer, or if you have just retired?

few days in hospital for a how much PMI cover really costs," says Steve Walker, proprietor of Medical Insurance Services, a firm specialising in this field. "Many people may have seen it as a £300a-year employer's perk, and assume that is all it will cost them. They then discover that to maintain selves and their wives could cost

> Peter Bye, a partner at the Private Health Partnership, another specialist adviser, adds: "It used to be the case that many firms would offer continuing cover to people who had retired. But a few years ago. most companies decided they simply couldn't afford it.

> "It's one thing to offer PMI to employees in a firm where the average age is 32 and group premiums reflect that fact, quite another to pay for someone who is at an age where they are likely to be making the most

when that person leaves their employment."

The problem of finding affordable but comprehensive cover is compounded by a combination of factors.

of medical equipment and treat-

ment on average, premiums have

risen by 10 to 15 per cent a year,

some 6 to 12 per cent a year above

the retail price index. The industry

is in a costs and claims spiral, partly

because, as in the NHS, medical

costs have risen with the advent of

an increase in claims, with insurers

But the main factor appears to be

new techniques.

in turn leading to a process of "selective" self-insurance.

The other main factor is age-One of them is inflation in the cost related: as people get older, they are mer employee, whether they have

retired, but most companies have now decided they can't afford it

to rise. Eventually, premiums be-

come unaffordable for many. Peter

Bye adds: "One of the reasons for

this seepage of people away from

PMI recently has been because of

the Government's decision to scrap

tax relief on premiums in the Bud-

So what happens if somebody

wants to retain cover after leaving

get last year?

"It can be quite a blow to find out say that their responsibility ends "health investors" who are determined to recoup rather more than says that, for the majority of people, cover with their existing insurer: "The standard practice is for 'continuing terms' to be offered to a for-

person leaves that employment. Of

course, that's when people discov-

er just how much it will cost them

each month to obtain the same

It can make sense - despite the

higher premiums and the sense of

being held hostage by your existing

provider - to go for that option, if only

because looking for another insurer

their cover has cost them, with this the main option is that of retaining

Many firms used to offer continued medical cover to employees who

level of cover."

more likely to need medical care. retired or have joined another firm.

Therefore their oremiums are likely This is usually done as soon as the

a cheaper insurer, one that sometimes applies to the former, employer-provided one, is that prospective policy-holders may be required to undergo new underwriting tests if they wish to pay for

cover themselves. This could mean either that premiums rise to reflect are unwilling to offer cover for preexisting conditions. In any event, exclusions are standard among insurers, the main ones

use of PMI in the past without cover

for "pre-existing" conditions. Often,

A danger of shopping around for

the premiums are cheaper, too.

being treatment for chronic conditions such as asthma and diabetes. dental treatment, cover for normal pregnancy, and any treatment for alcohol or other drug dependency.

The alternative is to opt for "moratorium cover", where a person will not receive payment for treatment for a set period of time

can leave a person who has made usually between two and five years after taking out the insurance policy. The advantage of this is that you will not be forced into a timeconsuming and potentially even more problematical medical examination, with all the accompanying risks of discovering a previously

unknown medical condition. It is important to note, however, that in a recent report the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) attacked "moratorium cover" for potentially putting people off seeing their doctors about their medical problems for fear of

losing their cover. In addition, the OFT said, even if policy-holders held off having treatment for two years, the wording on some policies was so confusing that they were being refused payment for private medical treatment without its being made clear in the policy's small print that this might happen.

> NIC CICUTTI PERSONAL FINANCE EDITOR

How to keep you and your bank account in the pink

to find ways to do that. Robin Payne, the general manager for business development at Exeter Friendly of their policy by up to 25 per cent." Society, says: "One Idea that we are "reservation" on a policy. That way, they can obtain affordable cover."

One way is to reduce the level of 's Preferred Plan offers £100 : night for people who stay in an NHS hospital. All outpatient treatment is paid for Cover for a couple aged 59

There's no point in having cheap medical cover if, when you actually have to use it, you have a bad experience claiming it

and 57 would cost £1,305 a year. By shifting to Exeter's low-cost option, which pays £50 a night for NHS hospital care and does not cover outpatient treatment, the bill reduces to £902 for the couple.

Peter Bye points out, however, that he will always recommend people to opt for outpatient treatment as part of a policy: "It is becoming more and more the case that outpatient treatment is taking the place of overnight stays," he says. In addition, the cost of such treatment can mount up.

Another method is to accept an "excess" on a policy, whereby the first slice of any treatment is paid for by the person receiving it. A spokeswoman at Prime Health, the PMI provider owned by the insur-

HOW CAN you reduce the cost of er Standard Life, explains: "We opmedical cover? Insurers are keen erate a system whereby a person

Paying annually instead of discussing, although it's not at the monthly also helps: most insurers final stage yet, is for people to an- lop off between 4 and 5 per cent for ticipate the higher cost of cover in contributors who pay in this way. old age by making some kind of Prime Health cuts 7.5 per cent, while WPA cuts up to 11.5 per cent for advance payment.

A less popular way of cutting the cover required. For example, Ex- bills is to exclude children from the but most experts agree that kids are in any case the most likely to be treated swiftly by the NHS, even in non-emergency cases.

Accepting restrictions on which hospitals are used for treatment can save money. Prime Health gives a 15 per cent discount for those who choose its 95-hospital network option. But increasingly, in a bid to contain premiums, many providers have reduced the freedom to choose hospitals from all but their huxury-style policies.

Companies usually raise premiums at least once a year, on top of further increases made on the basis of age bands. The age band increases differ among the top providers. For Bupa it is every five years; PPP has a small age-related increase every year, while it is every 10 years up to the age of 60 for Prime Health.

One recent entrant to the PMI market, the Dutch company OHRA, is attempting to break this price structure with a product, Medios Executive 2000, which, under its loyalty bonus, makes no age-related premium increases whatsoever.

Both Peter Bye and Steve Walker recommend looking out for policies whose age hands do not disadvantage people as they become older.

"My advice is for clients to think ahead to when they are older. There's no point in paying the cheapest premium now if it rockets



As you get older, and more likely to need health care, the cost of medical insurance can spiral ever upwards

Peter Bye's own advice to clients is to concentrate on the level of cover needed - most insurers will different people's pockets - then to

the mortgage you're taking out '

is going to account for a large

part of your disposable income.

says. Birmingham Midshires

offers a rate fixed at 6.49 per

cent for 10 years, according to

fee of £295 and stipulates that

you must take out the lender's

insurance. Fees for fixed- and

hut watch out for the other

penalties. This is where you

have to pay the lender a large

watch ont for redemption

sum of money - often the

capped-rate deals are common,

catches. And, most importantly,

financial data provider

huildings and contents

up in 10 or 20 years' time," Mr look at price and, finally, at the level of service offered. "There's no point in having cheap cover if the tong-term consequence is that, when you need to use it, you have offer a range of policies to suit a bad experience in claiming for it,"

Steve Walker adds one tip: "Most pensive they are. "In London, for

care given there. We had clients who icy on a different band for £1.400 a insurers will place hospitals in cer- had recently retired from London tain bands depending on how ex- to the country and they were looking for cheaper cover. They had example, most hospitals are in been paying £5,000 a year for band band A because they simply cost A treatment in London, I was able more, irrespective of the level of to find them an almost identical pol-

year." With dozens of providers offering a multitude of policies each, it always pays to obtain independent advice as to the most suitable one for your needs. NIC CICUTTI

Beware – penalties can shatter your dreams

In the latest of her series on choosing the right mortgage.

Rachel Fixsen warns borrowers that the most attractive

TAKE OUT a fixed-rate mortgage now and you could be paying less than 1 per cent in interest on your home loan. But what is the catch?

Whether you are borrowing to buy your first home or are remortgaging to save money, you are faced with the choice of fixed-rate, capped-rate or variable-rate deals. With a fixed-rate mortgage,

the rate of interest you pay is set for a pre-determined period, usually up to five years. In a climate of falling interest rates. the fixed rate is likely to he lower than the prevailing variable rate.

"The danger people face is that the fixed rate could become uncompetitive over that time." says Simon Hooper, of Bristol & West. So a capped-rate mortgage can be more attractive. A capped rate is also agreed for a set period, and puts

a ceiling on the rate of interest you will have to pay. If during the period interest rates should fall below the capped rate, the borrower would pay at the lower of the two.

A variable-rate mortgage means you agree to pay interest at the mortgage lender's standard variable rate which generally shadows Bank of England short-term money market interest rates.

Fixed-rate mortgages provide a safe haven for some home huyers. Coping with rising interest rates can be a nightmare. In the two years from 1987 to 1989, average interest payments on a £60,000 mortgage went up by more than £200 a month.

"What it really hinges on is hudget," says Patrick Bunton, of mortgage brokers London & Country Mortgages. "Don't try to double-guess the market. If

rates do not always make for the most attractive deals equivalent of six months' interest - if you pay off any extra capital within a pre-set period.

then you should fix the rate," he The Scarborough Building Society shines in best-huy tables with its fixed-rate deal. You pay 0.99 per cent for a year, but then you have to stick with that MoneyFacts. The deal carries a lender for a further five years or

face hefty redemption penalties. Whichever fixed- or cappedrate mortgage you go for, you can expect to be tied into the agreement while the period of protected interest rates lasts.

But many lenders go further,

locking you in for years after the fixed or capped rate has expired. This could leave yoo at the mercy of their standard variable

rate, however uncompetitive that may prove to be.

"You are almost always better off taking a deal where there is no overhang," says Mr Bunton. If you take out a three-year deal with no lock-in at the end, the lender then has a huge incentive to offer further competitive mortgage terms, he says.

Many people are caught unawares by redemption penalty clauses. While they would expect a discounted rate mortgage to carry an extended lock-in period because it involves an element of subsidy from the lender, they would not

expect this to be the case with a

straightforward fixed deal. But

very low fixed rates are often, in fact, discounted fixed rates. So are some mortgages mislabelled?

Sue Anderson, of the Council of Mortgage Lenders, says no. But there is a need to make some consumers more aware of conditions hefore they sign up

for a mortgage, she adds.
"If it's a fixed rate that seems cheaper than other fixed rates, then look at the overall package to see if there's a redemption charge," she says. Rory Hegarty, of the National Consumer Council, says that the mortgage market can he a minefield for

would-be borrowers. "It really is very important for consumers to look very carefully at exactly what they are signing

up for," he says. "If a deal that you are considering ties you in after the fixed period, then consider shopping around because you

There are advantages of going for a variable rate deal. It enables you to choose one of the new breed of flexible mortgages that calculate interest daily and allow overpayments and underpayments. And anyway, according to economists' forecasts, interest rates have peaked for now.

might just find a better deal."

"We think rates are going nowhere until next February," says Geoffrey Dicks, the UK economist at Greenwich NatWest. And then the next move will be down, he predicts. By the end of 1999, he forecasts that Bank of England money market rates will have fallen to 6.5 per cent from 7.5 per cent at the moment.

London & Country Mortgages: 01225 40800; Bristol & West: 0117 9792222; Council of Mortgage Lenders: 0171 440 2255

Banks want your money – so take theirs

Who'd have thought becoming a student could improve your financial situation? By Nic Cicutti

tween students and their bank could be ties, particularly on the overdraft front. Go more than £100 or so overdrawn and you could almost guarantee a stroppy letter from the manager - for which you were theo charged.

selves to offer students an overdraft. sometimes running into four figures. hard to find. First, student debt is a ture for both banks and their clients. far more "acceptable" feature of college life. The gradual whittling down in the value of, and now, the outright abolitioo of student grants has made college-goers far more dependent on state loans to keep going. Banks see themselves as part of that equation.

NatWest is prepared to offer a £1,000 overdraft in years one to

This is probably just as well. Midland Bank's Degrees of Debt survey earlier this year found that more than half of sixth-formers' per cent expected to borrow during their student days. In reality. Midland points out, 92 per cent will be in debt by their third year,

If anything, owing money is now seen as a sensible thing to do. Jenny Loynds, head of student banking at Barclays, believes; "Students are becoming increasingly realistic about the cost of going to university. The percentage of students owing money has risen from 80 per cent in 1993 to 88 per cent today."

Moreover, banks have discovered that, despite the sometimes mastodontic scale of their overmost students pay them off as soon as they start work. It may take a year ex-students will soon be earning in cash.

en or fifteen years ago. enough to pay off their debts. And a sense of middle-class probity will ensure they do so, even though it may cause hardship for a long time - the fraught with difficul- average deht is £3,800 and the expected repayment time is five years, according to Midland; £2,960 according to Barclays - after the overdraft was incurred in the first place.

Finally, hanks know that if they catch their clients young and cosset Today, everything is different.

Banks positively fall over themeter themeter when at their most vulnerable, eventually these same clients will generate a healthy income stream for many decades. Student over-The reasons for this change are not drafts are an investment for the fu-

> So what are banks prepared to offer their teenage customers? Each bank's package differs slightly, although the most common feature is the free overdraft.

three, with £1,500 in year four and £2,000 in years five and beyond. However, the bank insists this is not automatic, and all limits are asgreatest concern is money, while 70 sessed on an individual basis and discussed between the student and

However, NatWest does not rest there. It also gives those opening one of its student accounts before 30 No-vember a cash gift of £35 (plus a further £15 if the account is opened at one of the bank's "specialist" student hranches). Or it will give an BT EasyReach pager, which has no connection fee and on which the student pays nothing for messages.

Midland's package also involves a pre-agreed, interest-free overdraft of £750 in year one, £1,000 in vear two. £1.250 in the third year, risdrafts, barring a few exceptions ing to £1,500 in subsequent years. This is less than NatWest offers, but Midland also gives students a free, or two, but once in the world of work four-year Railcard, worth £72, or £50

What is more, additional horrowing is 1 per cent over base rate, while its fee-free credit card will charge only 11.9 per cent APR for the first 12 months - subject to a maximum £500 spending limit. Midland claims its Railcard deal can save students hundreds of pounds more on travel, and cites the cost of a return ticket between London and Manchester - £46.50 with a standard saver ticket and £31 with the card as an example.

Lloyds offers a pre-agreed overdraft of £750 in years one to three, which is potentially extendable to £1,000. Thereafter, the pre-agreed limit is £1,500, with a possible extension to £2,000. All new account openers also receive £35 in cash, plus a further £5 if their parents also bank at Lloyds. Agreed extra borrowing is at a lower rate - 7.4 per cent - than Midland's, and students' fee-free Mastercard charges 16.4 per cent APR for six months, returning to 22.9 per cent APR thereafter.

Barclays Bank's interest-free overdraft package is up to £1,200 in year one, rising to £1,400 in year two. £1,600 in the third year, £1,700 in the fourth and £1,800 in the fifth, Interest on agreed loans above that is charged at 1 per cent over the base rate. Plus, the bank offers free Internet banking 24 hours a day, 365 days a year - this benefits anyone who has access to the Net while they are at college.

Its fee-free Barclaycard is not such good value, charging 18.9 per cent with a limit of £350. But Barclays' piece de resistance is the offer of a Cellnet EasyLife mobile phone worth £119.99. There is no line rental with this phone and incoming calls are free of charge. There is also no disconnection fee. However, calls are charged on a pre-paid basis at 49 pence per minute and at least £320-



Students may have lost the battle over fees, but they can still win the financial war

phone every 120 days. (This can be carried over once.) Students receive £20-worth of free calls when they buy their first £20 of call time. The phone also has Voicemail message facilities, charged at 49 pence

Jenny Loynds at Barclays says: "The whole package is designed to lar, has won student customers by

worth of calls must be credited to the eocourage students to take control of their finances - using technology such as the Internet, the mobile phone as well as our realistic overdraft facilities.

> As well as the big banks' success in attracting students, some present and former building societies have done the same. Halifax, in particu-

offering them a £1,000 a year interest-free overdraft for up to six years (one year after graduation), plus agreed overdrafts of 7.9 per cent EAR (Equivalent Annual Rate). Halifax also offers a telephone banking service, commission-free trav-

el money and a cash card. Despite the attractive packages

their accounts, the fact remains that, for many, the key is not the deal on offer while they are at college but what happens when they leave.

The first few years after studies have ended can be tough, and newlygraduated-students need all the help they can get during that puri-od. This is a subject to which we will

It's a great



...at least £35 cash or a BT EasyReach Pager for opening a Student Account*

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We can help with...

A cash gift of at least £35° for first year students. Those who qualify for our Student Banking Service at selected branches will be eligible for a bonus of £15°, bringing the grand total to £50. Alternatively, opt for a BT EasyReach Pager to help you stay in touch with friends and family.

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With all this on offer, plus much, much more, it's no wonder so many students choose NatWest.

> To apply or for more information pop into any branch or

call 0800 200 400

Monday to Friday 8.00am - 8.00pm Saturday 9.00am - 6.00pm

NatWest

More than just a bank

Internet address: www.natwest.co.uk We may married and record your phane coils with as in order to maintain and improve our service. "The £35 cash gift/BT EasyReach Pager offer applies to first year undergraduates who submit an application for a Startest Account at any branch of National Westminster Bank Pic by 30 November 1998. This cosh gift will not be credited into the account until we have seen proof of student status, identification and grant cheaper/parental contribution. The £15 bonus only applies to students who qualify the Students Students can only receive either a cosh gift or a £1 EasyReach Pager not a combination of the two. The manerum intensi-free amount is £1,000 for your first three tyeers of study, £1,500 in year 4 and £2,000 in year 5 and begand. OSEAR. Credit is only available to manaris who are 18 or over and is subject to status and conditions. Written quantations are available on request from National Westminster Bank Pic, 41 Lathbury, Landon EC2P 28P or from any branch. Overstrate are repayable on demand,

GRANT YOURSELF SOME PEACE OF MIND

are based on the residual income.

which is basically the gross income

from all sources, less any payments

IN RECENT years overdrafts have been the common theme of the banks' student packages. As state funding for students has decreased. the credit facilities available for those undertaking degree courses have increased.

In the Seventies, when the parents of this year's intake were studying. everyone undertaking a course of higher education received a grant for their living expenses from their Local Education Authority (LEA). Admittedly, the offspring of wealthy parents received only a token £50 a year, but the level of grants for those on average incomes was reasonably adequate, so that their parents were expected to contribute only an

affordable amount. Since 1990, the level of grants has been steadily eroded. The sum payable to those starting a course this year has been dramatically slashed by 50 per cent.

As of this were oot bad enough, those starting a course next year will receive oothing at all. The expense will come as a shock for many

As in the past, the grants are means-tested on the students' parental income. The calculations

which qualify for tax relief, such as pension contributions, some mortgage interest, and payments into life policies taken out before 11 March 1984. It is only the offspring of parents

whose residual income is below

The level of grants has been eroded, and those starting a course next year will get nothing

£16,945 who will receive a full grant. Those with a residual income above this amount will be expected to contribute to their son or daughter's expenses on a sliding scale, with a reduction of £75 for every other dependent child. As a rule of thumb, those with a residual income of around £35,000 or more who have a student undertaking a course will receive oothing.

For parents who are employees. the calculations are based on their income in the financial year preceding the start of the course the 1997/98 tax year for courses

starting this autumn. For self-employed parents, the LEA may, with agreement, base its assessment on the income in the trading year ending in the last financial year before the start of the course. Where parents are divorced. the assessment is generally made on the income of the parent with whom the student lives.

Those who have not already applied for a grant should contact their LEA as soon as possible to make the arrangements.

Maximum grants for the academic year 1998/99 in England and Wales are: London, £1.225; elsewhere, £810; Parental Home (nny location), £480. The figures are based on nn academic year of 30 weeks and three days, and 25 weeks and three days at Oxford and Cambridge. Extra weekly payments are made for additional weeks of study — London, £82.20; elsewhere, £61.60; and those living at the parental

AND GET THAT STUDENT LOAN SORTED

TO COMPENSATE for the decrease in student grants, student loans have been increased. Unlike grants, loans are not means-tested. Further good news is that they are interest-free. However, the bad news is that the sum to be repaid increases at the rate of inflation.

Students can apply for a loan only when they start their course of study. Application forms are available from universities or colleges. Assessing an individual's eligibility for a loan is the responsibility of the academic institution where the student is

undertaking the course. The application procedures are rigid and, to save time, students should have certain information available wheo they begin their course. Applicants born in the UK will require their original birth or adoption certificate. An award letter from the student's LEA will speed up the process. As the loan is paid direct to a bank or huilding society account, its number and the sort code of the branch has to be stated. Finally, the applicant has to give his or her

national insurance number. If this is unknown, the Contributions Agency will be able to assist.

Only one application is allowed each academic year. Therefore, it is advisable to apply for the full amount for, if less than the maximum is requested, it is not possible to apply

The application rules are rigid and students should have important information to hand

for the shortfall at a later date. Students may choose to receive their loan as a single sum during the first term, or in three equal instalments, one made each term.

Repayment of loans does not begin until the course has been completed. The monthly instalments depend on income. If this is below a

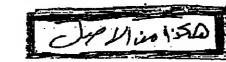
certain threshold - currently £10,000 a year - no repayments have to be made. The threshold will be reviewed each year in the tight of average earnings.

When the income exceeds the threshold, 9 per cent of the excess must be paid to reduce the outstanding loan. With the present £10,000 threshold this means the monthly repayment will be 9 per cent of any gross monthly income - about £833 (£10,000 divided by 12). Therefore, graduates earning £12,000 a year will pay £15 a month, and those with an annual salary of £18,000 will pay £60 a month.

The period of repayment depends on the amount borrowed and annual income. The repayments will be collected by the Inland Revenue.

Maximum loans for the academic year 1998/99 are: London £3,145; Elsewhere, £2,735; Parchtal Hame (any location), £2.325. The loans are 15 to 18 per cent lower in the final year of study

JOHN ANDREW



Ensure you insure wisely

Competition is fierce in motor insurance but it may benefit the clever customer. By Katherine Storey

THERE IS good news on the car insurance front – and bad news too. The good news is that premiums are being pegged at a low rate. The bad news is that motor insurance companies are desperate to hike up prices – though heavy competition means that, for the moment, they are unable to do so.

As Alex Lovesey, from Hill House Hammond, an insurance intermediary, says: There is always talk (within the industry) that rates have got to harden. Reports have suggested that premiums need to increase by at east 10 per cent on motor policies. But statistics say that this is not really the case."

Miranda Seymour, from Direct Line Insurance, says: "Over the last two to three years, the market in motor insurance has become fiercely competitive." This ensures that companies cannot raise their rates for fear of being undercut by another company.

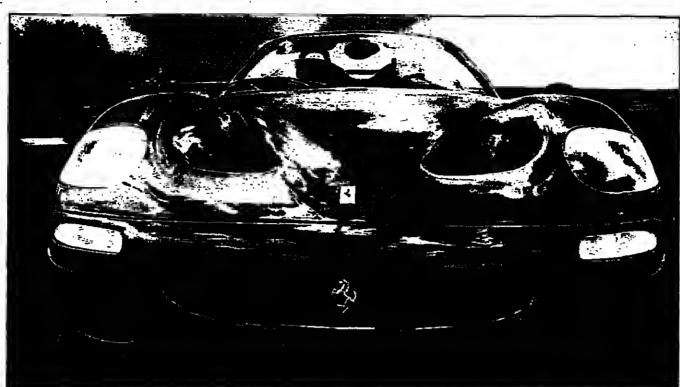
More potential good news for the consum is that Barclays Bank has teamed up with Privilege Insurance, to enter the motor insurance market with an offer to undercut all its rivals' renewal premiums. Bob Dench, managing director of Barclays Insurance Services, says: "Banks are traditionally seen as quality insurers, but not at a competitive price. Barciays seeks to change this image." This guarantee

will apply for the first 12 months' premiums. Mr Dench adds: "The industry will have a dreadful time matching this product if it takes off, because if they try to take us down on price, that guarantee is there for next year"

However, Judith Price at Swinton Insurance, an insurance intermediary, warns: Many in motor insurance would say that this is the road to ruin and it simply cannot be sustained. From my understanding of the Barclays offer it is an opening offer - it is not an intention that they will always be the cheapest. We would say to any customer that went to them: 'We will see you next year!'."

As many motorists may have discovered, there is the danger that insurance companies will use discounted introductory offers to get customers on board, only for the customer to find that, the following year, their premiums have substantially increased. Alex Lovesey says: "This is something that we did see happen when direct insurers first started to come into prominence."

However, Bob Dench, at Barclays, replies: next year." However, before taking out insurance, it would seem that it is important to look past the attractive introductory package The market is a large one, there is plenty of to what the renewal rate will be the next year. scope for people to offer a variety of different



No matter how high your current premium is, you may get a better deal by shopping around for quotes

Bob Dench adds that Barclays can make its offer by saving on advertising costs. The bank already has a large customer base, with 6 million customers and 7 million Barclaycard holders. These clients will be targeted first. Bob Dench says: "Competitors will spend, for example, £25m on advertising. If they attract 500,000 customers, each one will have to pay an extra £50 on their policy to pay for it."

Despite cut-price offers from direct insurers, such as Direct Line, Churchill, and now Barclays, many customers prefer the service they receive from insurance brokers and intermediaries. This is partly because brokers are able to shop around for the best deal, so the quotes they get often undercut those avail-able from the direct insurers.

Brokers also offer face-to-face consultations, unlike direct insurers. Ms Lovesey, at Hill House Hammond, says: "We are able to offer a face-to-face [approach] in our 250 branches across the country, or a telephone service. However, our research has shown that 30 per cent of people, whether they want to go into a branch or not, like the fact that it is there. They can build up a personal relationship with the people, which may be especially welcome when they have a claim."

Although the motor insurance industry is price-driven, with the majority of customers most concerned about how much they will have to pay, there are other aspects to convery much based on price competitiveness.

	Direct Line	Norwich Union	Eagle Star (1)	Swinton	Hill House Hammond	Barclays (2)
21 year old male. London, F Reg Vacadiali Astra 1.2 Merit	£625.08 (£150x)	£250x) :	£541.84 (£150a)	£584.00 (£300x)	E521,92 (E250a)	£500.00 (£100x)
? year no claims discount.	£579.28 (£250x)		£521.04 (£250x)			
33 year old famale marketing director. Chetrenham. P Reg MGF 1,8	£360.88 (£1004)	£379.65 (£100x)	(£100k)	£280.00 (£300k)	E245.44 (£150x)	E225.00 (£100a)
S years no claims discount.	£325.52 (£200x)	£367,37 £200x)	£312.00 (£150x)			
45 year old Manager. Leeds, M Reg Volvo Estate 850 2 Refe.	£339.04 (£100s)	£430.42 (£1004)	£350.AB (£100x)	£204.88 [£200x)	£280.80 (£100x)	É184 (£100k)
Full no claims discount.	£321,36 (£150x)	E420.24 (\$200%)	£340.08 [£150x)	E270.40 (E200x)		
63 year old retired female. Bournemouth. R Reg Caewoo Lancs 1.6 ax Full no Claims disc	(E1004) -	£194.21 (£100×)	£177,84 (£100k)	£131.04 (£100a)	£118.56 (£100±)	E100.00 (100x)

customer propositions. Our customer proposition is very much based on the quality of service and the add-on benefits we provide."

Bob Dench, however, says that Barclays has ance, says: "The Barclays offer seems to be companies benefits packages and put them together, to deliver cover that is "as good as

the best and better than the rest". Irrespective of the reassuring words of

Barclays, and other competitors who want you to go to them direct, it is always a good idea to shop around for both the best price and benefits package to suit your needs. As the maryour business. Don't be afraid to go to companies with offers from other dealers. You may just find that the cost of the premium they initially quote will suddenly reduce in size.

A legacy to pay for school fees

FOLLOWING AN unexpected inheritance of £60,000, Colin and Margaret sought my advice as to investment.

The starting-point was to identify their objectives. Colin and Margaret explained that they wish to use the funds for their 10rear-old daughter Laura's private education.

Laura's current school fees are £8,000 a year, which to date have been paid for out of earned in-come. Both Colin and Margaret are higher-rate taxpayers so this is not tax-efficient, but until now it has been the only method open to them. It was decided to stop funding from income and, instead, use the £60,000 capital.

The next step was to consider the levels of acceptable investment risk, bearing in mind the time scale. In the case of Colin and Margaret, there is an ongoing liability of at least £8,000 a year until Laura reaches age 16, at the earliest. They decided to split the

So £16,000 was set aside to finance the anticipated cost of fees for the next two years. This sum was deposited in a postal account offering a competitive rate of interest. The interest earned will be liable to tax at 40 per cent, but the capital is protected from shortterm fluctuations in its value.

The investment period for the balance of the funds ranged from the third academic year onwards. This is still a relatively short time scale, so it is important not to take unnecessary risks.

I therefore recommended that Colin and Margaret make full use of their general Pep allowances of £6,000 each, Colin had previously invested in a sharebased, unit trust Pep. I explained that because of the relatively short-term investment period envisaged, a further share-based Pep would not be appropriate.

Instead, I recommended they each invested in corporate-boodbased unit trust Peps. Corporate bonds are loans made by investors to companies, for a specified term. In general, the investor receives an annual fixed divion the redemption date. They are Personal Planning. Highwoods generally seen as lower-risk than

THE FIXERS



JAMES BRUCE

A windfall is taxefficient in funding a child's education

tal is not guaranteed in the same way as a cash deposit, I recommended that the relatively high income be reinvested, to increase the value of their capital.

With the rest of the funds, Colin and Margaret chose a portfolio of zero-dividend preference shares of split capital investment trusts ("zeros"), which offer a combination of low-risk and taxefficient returns. A split capital investment trust invests in shares and securities of other companies. It has, bowever, two classes of shares, as well as a predetermined life span. When it reaches the end of its life, the zero shares have priority call on the underlying assets of the investment trust.

Zeros provide for investment purely in the form of capital growth. So any increase in value can be set against Colin and Margaret's annual capital gains tax allowances. Everyone has this useful allowance, but few understand and make use of it. The CGT allowance is set at £6,800 for the 1998/99 tax year.

This combined portfolio will finance Laura's education in a tax-efficient manner. As for the £8,000 a year Colin and Margaret will save, they have decided to use them to fund early retirement but that's another story.

James Bruce is a senior financial planner at the fee-based inde-Square, Highwoods, Colchester,

Someone you can bank on in times of trouble

In the first of a series on how customers can make effective complaints. John Andrew looks at the sterling work of the Banking Ombudsman

KNOWING WHO to complain to contains useful tips for cusis an important component of tomers to follow and emphaunderstanding the often-confusing world of financial

For many, the relationship they bave with their hank is the most important - certainly the longest-lasting - of all the institutions they will deal with in the course of their lives. But what happens if things go sour between you and the

bank manager? Established in 1986, the Banking Ombudsman'a office is the place to go. The Ombudsman is David Thomas, a former solicitor who has worked in many legal fields. His office employs a staff of more than 40, many of whom are lawyers, to deal with customers' complaints.

The service, which is provided free to complainants, is funded by 111 banks which are members of the scheme. Its annual operational budget is just under £2.6m.

Despite being funded by the industry, the Ombudsman and his staff fiercely defend their independence and impartiality. During the year to 30 September 1997, marginally more decisions were in favour of customers than banks.

The office can deal with complaints from individuals, sole traders, partnerships, unincorporated bodies such as members' clubs, and companies with an annual turnover of less than £1m. More than 80 per cent of complaints are from personal customers.

The office will not deal with complaints that have not first been referred to the hank concerned. Most banks issue a leaflet outlining their complaints procedures. The office also publishes a guide, Complaining to the Bank. This

sises the need to keep copies of correspondence and notes of conversations.

Normally, banks first require complaints to be made at branch level. If unresolved, they are then referred to a regional office and then to head office. Customers who are not

they receive may then refer the matter to the Ombudsman. However, a "deadlock" letter from the bank, confirming that they have reached the end of its procedures is required. Should a bank delay providing this, the Ombudsman's office can help. Customers are allowed six

two to three weeks.
If conciliation does not re-

WHAT YOU CAN COMPLAIN ABOUT...

Customers may complain to the banking Ombudsman about about:

 Banking services (including mortgages) Credit card services Executor and trustee services

· Advice and services relating to taxation, insurance and certain investments The services must have been provided in or from the UK, but include transactions abroad using cards issued in the UK. Unless there has been maladministration or unfair treatment, the office cannot deal with complaints about a bank's: Commercial indgement relating to lending or

security Decision in exercising a discretion under a will or trust, including its failure to consult beneficiaries unless required to do so

...AND WHAT YOU CAN'T

Complaints cannot be handled:

About a bank's general interest rate policies · About general bank policies and practices · Where the claim, including any possible related claim, could exceed £100,000 · In situations where a court is involved - unless

the bank agrees The office will also oot deal with a complaint where the customer has suffered no loss or inconvenience, and in situations where it believes the bank has already offered adequate compensation. General advice is not given about banking, financial matters or debt problems,

satisfied with the response months from the issue of a deadlock letter to complain to the Ombudsman. Upon receipt of a complaint form, the office tries to resolve the issue quickly by conciliation. This may involve either party's attention to relevant factors. Normally this process takes

solve the matter, the complaint is subjected to an investigation, which could take some months and involve all parties in a considerable amount of effort.

In the five years up to 30 September 1997, the Ombudsman's office received 8,816 complaints, of which 2,388 could not be dealt with, as they either should have been referred elsewhere, or fell outside the scheme. Of the 6,430 valid ones, 674 went to investigation. In a third of these cases, either the bank or the customer asked for the decision to be reviewed.

While the banks have to accept the Ombudsman's decision, customers do not, and may choose to resort to the courts. Compensation recently awarded under the scheme ranged from £21 to £90,000, the average being £2,805. In 75.3 per cent of cases, the Ombudsman awarded more than was previously offered by the banks.

The top five areas of complaint are: lending (16.6 per cent); mortgages (14.1 per cent); charges and interest (8.5 per cent); account errors (6.5 per cent) and discourtesy or delay (5.4 per cent).

The Office of the Banking Ombudsman may be contacted on 0171-409-9944, or by writing to 70 Gray's Inn Road, London WCIX 8NB

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achieved without the protection of the Safety Price. The analohility of appropriate investments may restrict our ability to provide a new Safety Price. The Safety Price for the UK Sheltered Crowth Trust for which the Safety Plus PEP solely largues is gustameted currently by a major financial institution and is dependent on this third party meeting its obligations. The value of units in our UK Sheltered Growth Trust many change on a daily back and many full as well as the. Tax assumptions are subject to manufacty change and the value to an investor of the tax advantages of a PEP will depend on permanal streamstance. For your protection your casts to Scottish Widows may be recorded or monitored, lasted by Scottish Widows Investment Authority and IMEO.



Feter Laybe of Cima, one of the three accountancy institutes involved in a possible merger whose increasing individual status is making it question such a move Rui Xavier

Accountants divided over the maths and motives of merger

polite and reserved characters. But the row in the profession over proposals to merge three of its six institutes demonstrates all the politeness of a Chicago mobsters' shoot-out. Representatives of the institutes can

barely contain their anger, even a month after the ideas came forward from the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (Acca). The dispute arose mainly, but not wholly, because Acca institutes asking for reactions. In going made its proposal directly to the memberships of two other bodies, the Char- of the other bodies, while telling jourtered Institute of Management nalists the move was being undertaken Accountants (Cima) and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (Cipfa). By cotting out the general councils of the other bodies, Acca made a pretty strong hint that it hought the councils were unrepresentative of their members, which was unlikely to win the councils' co-operation.

Alichael Foulds, Acca's president, put a different gloss on its tactics, saying the failure of previous merger proposals showed the need to sound out the institutes' members before detailed regotiations began. "The experience of previous initiatives has been of councils'

ccountancy usually appears a profession for The proposed merger of half the six accountancy institutes is turning into a bitter war of words. By Paul Gosling

> and months negotiating over detail, which is wheeled out to the members, who then said no," he explained when launching the proposal. "We wanted to do this differently, to get a sense of the memberships' views, before we bury ourselves in the detailed debate."

Acca mailed members of all three direct to members without the support with the co-operation of the other institutes, Acca did nothing to huild goodwill Cima, whose president is Peter Layhe, and Cipfa were given just an hour's notice of Acca's move. Michael Foulds is now personally in

the firing line, facing a members' revolt for authorising £500,000 expenditure to promote the merger. One outsider said that Foulds had an inflated view of his own capabilities, believing himself to be a deal-maker; while really being a partner of a small firm now operating out of his depth. It is noticeable that Acca's chief executive, Anthea Rose, is disorking parties spending days, weeks tancing herself from the political fall-out.

A view gaining support inside the other institutes is that Acca is not sincere in proposing the merger, just cynically improving its public profile to increase its student intake. There is even speculation that Acca's move could drive Cima and Cipfa into their own merger without Acca.

Yet Acca's proposal could still form the basis of a new body. Both Cima and Cipfa have been spurred into their own membership consultations. David Adams, chief executive of Cipfa, says: "I expect our members' response will Acca's proposal, which is open for be that merger is a good idea, but that Acca on its own is not as attractive an around the table. There is a substantial option as Acca plus somebody else. will out there for re-structuring." Members are saying that rationalisation is a good thing, and don't be too po-faced about Acca's behaviour, even if you don't like the way they have behaved."

With just 13,000 members, Cipfa is under the greatest pressure to support rationalisation. It carried out a major slimming-down operation two years ago to improve its economic performance, but its education and training division is not meeting its student targets. their self-interest."

Delivering Cima into a merger, now, would be much more difficult. It is a growing institute, whose qualification is seen as increasingly relevant. There is even a feeling within Cima that other institutes should be joining it, whereas Acca's proposal is essentially a takeover But despite tetchy open correspondence with Acca in recent weeks, Cima says it does want to formally meet with Acca to discuss rationalisation.

Acca's finance director, Ross Midgley, says that Cima has misunderstood

For all the criticism of Acca's tactics. Mr Midgley is unrepentant. "We would not have been sitting around the table with a chance of success unless we did what we did," he suggests. "Clearly there have been some ruffled feathers. strong reaction is regrettable, but it was a necessary step. It is about members, and not about council members and

The implication that resistance to Acca's proposals has stemmed from the wish of other institutes' council members to protect their perks and status will do nothing to smooth ruffled feathers, even if it strikes a chord with ordinary members. But it looks at the moment as if the three institutes are going to spend some time, as befits accountants, in arguing about figures.

Acca claims that 63 per cent of Cima members in Acca's ballot want a merger, along with 81 per cent of Cipfa's and 77 per cent of Acca's members. Cima's own ballot, though, found that 86 per cent of its members rejected the merger proposal. Cipfa's consultation takes place next month, but with only about 17 per cent of members of the three bodies responding to Acca's inquiry, there are serious doubts about its legithmacy.

Another weak link in the proposal is Acca's refusal to involve the institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales (ICAEW) in merger discussions. It is likely, though, that having had merger proposals heavily rejected by its membership in the past, the ICAEW We are still confident it is achievable. The believes that members are strongly set against any merger. Certainly, it seems unoffended at being left out. Its spokeswoman said: "We are keeping our heads above all that."

IN BRIEF

Just what the doctors ordered

LLOYDS TSB is developing what it calls a "new breed" of bank manager to get closer to specialist small and medium-sized businesses. It is setting up managers to look after what it believes are the unique business needs of vets, pharmacists, doctors, dentists, accountants and solicitors. The move follows customer re-search revealing that members of these groups felt their banking advisers needed special knowledge of their sectors.

THE INSTITUTE of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales is collaborating with four husiness schools to launch a management programme aimed at senior finance executives. The initiative, effective from next month, involves Manchester and Cardiff business schools, Bristol University's graduate school of international business and Newcastle school of management. The programme, for finance directors. offers a practical focus on the key financial and non-financial functions of the finance department.

EMPLOYEES ARE being warned of the growing trend for companies to respond to resignations with counter-offers. Counter-offers, amounting to as much as 10 to 15 per cent of salary, may seem an attractive incentive to stay, but they are often in reality "career suicide", says a leading financial recruitment consultant. Jeff Grout, managing director of Robert Half International, believes the practice benefits only employers who see it as a short-term solution to staffing shortages. They are simply "buying time" to replace a member of staff who will have been tagged as disloyal or lacking commitment and will be replaced when it suits the employer, he says.

SETTING INTERNATIONAL standards for public sector financial reporting is an ambitious project and needs support from governments and standardsetters if it is to gain acceptance, according to the Institute of Chartered Accountants in its response to proposed guidelines Issued by the public sector committee of the International Federation of Accountants. The institute's financial reporting committee welcomed the initiative, but warned that implementing a rigorous accruals-based regime was likely to be difficult and time-consuming.

ERNST & YOUNG has chosen D'Arcy Masius Benton & Bowles as its global advertising agency as part of its attempt to develop a global hranding strategy. The firm, which estimates it will spend more than \$100m next year on advertising and hranding, is to launch an ed campaign in the autumn.

RISKCARE. THE derivatives-based risk management consultancy, has developed a pricing methodology that, it claims, significantly speeds up measurement of trading, departmental and firm-wide risks. It says the methodology, called the Willow Tree, enables senior traders and risk managers to make such calculations in about a twentieth of the time currently allocated to them, and hence is able to make a significant impact on the working practices of risk

ROGER TRAPP

Want to make a fortune? Then start training to join the business élite. By Roger Trapp

Make it your business to go for gold

LANTO LANDAU is hardly most a paper about antiques on a trip to people's idea of a typical entrereneur. Softly spoken and retiring. ve became a businessman only in his hirties after previously training as i doctor ito overcome his squeanishness about blood), and becomng a university lecturer (to conquer

And yet - as a result of founding he classified advertisement newsmper Loot - he is now the wealthy lead of a company that employs shout 600 people and has annual ales of more than \$25m.

Despite a shaky start, when Lanlau and his colleagues were assured hat the idea would not work, the ompany has grown strongly since t was founded in 1985, and enjoys the listinction of being the only organsation to have featured every year n the Independent on Sunday's list f Britain's fastest-growing private

The appearance of the Loot story, a a new book on entrepreneurs by he management writer Rohert leller is a clear demonstration of he fact that enterprise can come in

il shapes and forms. Helier points out in his book, loldfinger: How entrepreneurs row rich by storting small HarperCollinsBusiness, £19.99), hat Landau and his co-founder, he then music critic Dominic Gill, vere essentially copyists. The idea f publishing a small ads magazine hat sold copies, but publishing the ds for free, came to Landau when e picked up what he thought was

Milan. But, as Heller writes: "Imitation may well be the sincerest way of making money," adding that Ray Kroc, for example, got the inspiration for what became a world-wide hamburger outlet chain by enjoying a meal at a place called McDonald's.

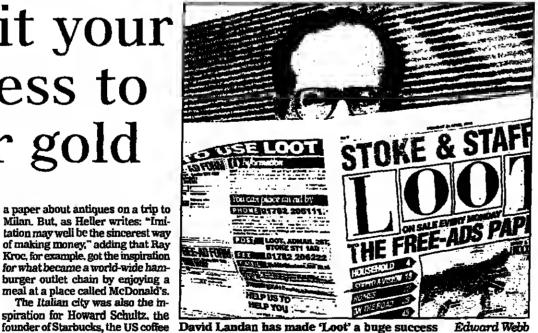
The Italian city was also the inspiration for Howard Schultz, the bouse chain that recently bought up Britain's Seattle Coffee Company, itself an imitator of Starbucks.

But although it appears that Schultz created a business worth several hundred million dollars simply by adapting the espresso bars he had seen in Italy to US tastes, Heller stresses that that is not the whole story. Entrepreneurs have to have the foresight to spot trends and the courage to act on that information, as well as such attributes as an instinct for design and a sense of how much people will pay.

"The key is thinking - the ultimate management technique," be writes. Like any technique, this can be improved, which is why both estabished business owners, and those seeking to join them, pay a lot of attention to creative thinking.

And that leads on to the real purnose of the book. As well as aiming to remove much of the mystery surrounding entrepreneurs - or, as Heller terms them, "the heroes of capitalism" - it is designed to set out certain techniques for making a success of new husinesses.

Convinced that it is "patently



untrue" that entrepreneurship cannot be taught, Heller writes that business may or may not be in the genes, but business know-how is in the teaching, training and experience. "At every stage - from the thinking that produces the Big Idea, through planning, to implementation and beyond - the entrepreneur can benefit from the example of others. people who have been there before. Their experience establishes clear

precepts and practices, from which

others can learn." Even those entrepreneurs who defy categorisation and seem never to have needed a lesson can, in fact, be found to be following a pattern: "They act on logic and observation, as well aus intuition, and their plans, decisions and execution are controlled by methods that can be understood - and imitated."

An additional motivation for Heller is the view, increasingly held in government circles, that small sses are often the seeds of hig ones. At the outset, he explains how he came upon the techniques embodied in his acronym IT BECAME FAST by studying BTR, a business that came from nowhere to appear at the top of the Management Today growth league. That company has since run into trouble but under the leadership of Sir Owen Green, it was a real powerhouse, becoming a £10bn company and an international name.

The techniques cover such issues as improving efficiency constantly, evaluating businesses and opportunities objectively, spreading authority around the organisation and ensuring that you make money because "if you don't, you can't do anything else". But, while keeping things as simple as possible is at the heart of much of his book, he also ventures into expansion and diversification - since these are usually

prerequisites for growth. Determined to inspire as well as explain, he concludes that success ful entrepreneurs do not rest on their laurels. Rather, they exploit "superb presents to achieve a far more brilliant future" - so the best definition of entrepreneurs is that they make their futures themselves.

Team trauma dampens Norman's conquest

management teams.

BY FRIDAY evening I am running for the door.

My main concern is putting as much distance as possible hetween me and my colleagues. I don't want to see hide nor hair of them again until Monday morning, and not even then, especially if it means cutting short my recurrent dream about dinner with Ewan McGregor.

You can understand, then, my dismay when Norman announced at the end of Thursday'a morning meeting that he was hosting a team barbecue lunch on Sunday, and he hoped we would all be able to

Now, when your new boss tells you he hopes that you will be able to attend something, what he really means is that you will attend. After all, as it says in chapter three of whichever hot-offthe press management theory book is on Norman's bedside table (no, I don't know why it's always chapter three, either), team building is crucial, and team events are the key whether the team likes it or not.

"I suppose we should be grateful that it's only a barbecue, and not one of those hideous survival weekends where you all get left on some sodden Scottish island with nothing but a tin of beans and a plastic bag and have to build a raft," I said to Laura as we left the office on Friday.

"Perhaps be hasn't read that bit yet," she replied.
"Anyway, I'll see you on

THE TRADER



Sunday dawned like a typical British summer day: grey, cold and threatening to rain. I hauled myself out of bed, cursing God, Norman and anyone else I could think of, especially when I realised there wasn't even time for breakfast. We'd been told to arrive at noon, and I felt sure our new honcho wouldn't understand the concept of "fashionably late". So it was one quick hlack coffee, two painkillers for the hangover, and straight into the car for the drive to Norman's.

I arrived an hour late, having spent nearly two hours going round and round an ever-diminishing piece of Surrey looking for the right private drive off the right private road on the right private estate. When I found the place, I nearly cried with relief, though that could have been the lack of breakfast making me feel

Norman turned out to be less cross than expected. He just said something slightly pointed about heing glad I could make it, poured me a

lemon harley water and disappeared into the garden. I spotted Laura, hiding in a corner with the papers. and headed her way. "What's up?" I asked her. "Surely Normski's not actually

cooking out there? It's been

chucking it down for the

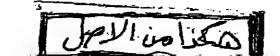
Laura laughed wryly. Nothing, it turned out, could deflect our Norm from a plan once it had been created. "You see," ahe said, "he's not only dull, he's terribly conscientious. He went out specially yesterday to buy the barbecue, and now he's set up a lit-

tle tent thing to keep it dry." My curiosity roused, I stood up and gazed out of the window. Sure enough, there was Norm wreathed in smoke, standing under a vast piece of tarpaulin. A piece of tarpaulin vast enough, in fact, for the whole team to stand under. I turned to Laura, my heart sinking faster than the Tokyo stock market. "Surely

he can't..." Oh, but he could. No sooner was the chicken ready than we were all herded out of the lovely warm house to eat. No complaints about the food (a hit dull, perhaps), hut being soaked from the neck down while we were eating it didn't add to the occasion. The only person who seemed happy was our host

Well," said Laura, "you could say it's heen a success. It was, after all, about team unity, and we're certainly united in one thing now."

Yes, I thought, we all hate



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APPOINMENTS/21

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The truth is out there - in your manager's X-file

The Data Protection Bill will help you find out what your boss really thinks of you. By Kate Hilpern

HAVE YOU ever wondered what disciplinary records – we can now vulnerable to legal proceedings. your manager really wrote on your latest appraisal? Or what snide comments fill the margins of the time-keeping records which your employers keep? After all, the entire office knows punctuality isn't your forte. Well, you need wonder no more because, from 24 October, the implementation of the new Data Protection Bill means that you will be legally entitled to access virtually all personal files kept on you by your employers. What's more, if you think that anything in them is potentially damaging in even the slightest way, you can do something about it.

In fact, the 1984 Data Protection Act means that employees are already entitled to see certain computerised files held on them. But since this refers only to straightforward factual details, most of us don't bother taking a peek. It's the juicy stuff - the records kept in the form of paper documents - that we want to get our paws on.

And since the new Bill incorporates everything from performance

find out exactly what our bosses

viewing the content of their personnel files," warns Angela Edward. policy adviser for the Institute of Personnel and Development. "People accumulate information for all sorts of bizarre reasons. They will now be liable for them."

Sonya, a personnel manager who has worked at five different companies over the course of her career, knows this all too well. "I've known middle managers to scribble down even the vaguest suspicions of theft and sexual harassment on data that is kept in manual files. I remember one who used to make notes on how he thought certain members of staff could improve the way they dressed. I'll never forget his comment, 'Shows too much cleavage in my opinion. But business good so perhans not clients' opinion'. If employees got to see stuff like that, all hell would break loose."

In cases of serious error, employers will find themselves

as far as being employed may have "All employers need to start re-ewing the content of their per-judged by automated evaluation processes (such as systems which scan CVs automatically and reject those failing to meet specific criteria) the right to be notified of the results - and, furthermore, to challenge them if they are unhappy.

"But it's not only unsubstantiated opinion," stresses Angela Edward. "Employees will be able to scrutinise all records on details such as their age, address and history of previous employers. They will have the right to have them corrected, because they can affect career prospects." According to Olga Aikin, senior

partner at the employment law firm the Aikin-Driver Partnership, the new law means that employers will also have to ensure that individual records don't refer to anyone other of records on the grounds of somethan the employee in question. "If you and I are both given the same wage increase, it is not uncommon for only one document to be produced - a copy of which is be put into



will mean I can get information on you, and vice versa."

Although there will be a threeyear transitional period before full access rights on existing files are established, Aikin believes that employers urgently need to address the nature of the information they rou-

tinely collate. Autumn's bill will also introduce restrictions regarding the existence one's race, sexuality, philosophical beliefs and trade union membership. "But I can't see that these details will he banned from being held altogether," says Angela Edward. in doing this because, if they are by

each of our files. But in future, that "The Government can't say that chance found, the risk of being they are not allowed to be kept and also that these details need to be monitored in order to assess the effect of equal opportunity policies."

One of the major concerns about the legislation centres on potential loopholes: "Organisations could, for instance, argue that personal files are being used to negotiate pay or redundancy settlements and should therefore be kept secret. Alternatively, they could just keep the information that they don't want their staff to see in 'unstructured files'. such as various desk drawers," says Edward, "Mind you, I see little point

taken to court still applies."

Personnel manager Sonva claims that two of the organisations for which she worked required 24 hours' notice before computer files could be accessed. "If this policy is extended to manual files, it will give the personnel department a chance to remove anything vaguely dodgy before the member of staff gets their hands on it. I know that the new bill means employees will legally be allowed to demand to waive any prior notice but because most employees don't like causing rifts, and because most employees won't even be aware of their rights. I suspect that this may

continue in many companies." It is unsurprising, therefore, that the Campaign for Freedom of Information has expressed concerns that absolute access to your personal documents may yet be some way off.

All experts nevertheless agree that certain exclusions will be necessary: "I'm sure employers will breathe a huge sigh of relief to discover that employees will not be pernutted to see their employment references," says Olga Aikin.

Perhaps the most that can be ex pected of the new legislation is that it will encourage employers to reconsider the value of the records they keep on their employees.

The perils of getting on too well with the boss

TURNS OUT that Mr Torrens and the destructive effects of the I have a compatibility rating similar to the proverbial hurning hungalow. I'm still disconcerted by the dribbling, and have an almost pathological desire to whip off his specs and give them a good polishing (with a rag that could be thrown away afterwards), but he's a sweet old stick who laughs at your jokes even when they're not jokes and generally thinks you're a pretty good stick back, as long as you keep him regularly supplied with

The weird thing is that, when I got my first glimpse of him last week, I thought that he was a very badly deteriorated 50, so thorough has my education in

Nurofen and mixers.

demon drink been, hut when he started talking about going to school without shoes during the great depression, I realised that this wasn't the case. Mr Torrens is in fact a fantastically well preserved eightysomething. Now I understand why they call it

After my two weeks on hand with the Nurofen, popping out for mixers and telling people he's in a meeting, he has come to rely on me with childlike enthusiasm. Calls me "dear girl", buys me chocolates, that sort of thing, And the news that I have been hooked for only two weeks and that Mary, his regular secretary ("Who? Nevererdovva. Oh,

yes...") is coming back from her hols fills him with bleary nostalgia. "Carnaveyer going without a thank-you, girlie," he says, though I assure him that I've been paid. "Tell you what, I'll huy yer dinner on yer last night."
Which I why I find myself on a

Friday night in "M'club", one of those wood-walled Mayfair rooms that has served brisket to old codgers since the 19th century, with bread rolls, while Mr Torrens dribbles vegetable soup down his chin and smears his wine glass. "C'mon, girlie, drink up," he says. "We're going to have a fine night," and starts to tell me about his time huilding oil fields in Iran. "Fine women," he says, "Fine women. Jewellery



THE TEMP

from head to foot. There used to be a club - now what was it called? Oh, yes - and we'd go there, have a gin or two - ha-haha-harrr - (he wipes his chin) and dance the night away...

His shank of lamb with baby onions arrives, and my grilled Dover sole, and a bottle of red is put on the table.

Mr Torrens fills my glass, fills his own, laughs again, takes a slurp and glazes over. I suddenly realise that, of course, far from having a harder head than me, the constant levels of alcohol in his system mean that it takes only a couple of glasses to tip him over. He falls silent, gazing fishily over my shoulder. I'm mortified amidst the polite murmur around us. I offer the pommes dauphinoise. "Arr. yes," he says, "good old spuds." Gazes on.

I scrape at my fish, which Is actually rather good, and the

waiter tops up my glass. A thread of drool forms at the corner of Mr Torrens's mouth; he chews absently, and his upper plate seems unwilling to stick to his gums. Every now and then a word slips out: "rrr-jollygood"; "rrr-carrots"; "rrr-fuzzywuzzies". I have a fixed grin on my face and a powerful desire

for oblivion. The waiter clears our plates and I decline pudding, coffee and stickies. It turns out that all that has to be done about the bill is for Mr Torrens to scrawl on a piece of paper for later, and somehow we end up at the front door. He drapes his arm over my shoulder, pinches my ear. "Yarra-

goodgirl", he growls.

The cab driver takes one look and refuses to take him alone. "Sorry love", he says. "I don't think I'll get him out at the other end." I get in. "Mr Torrens." 1 say, "Where do you live?" "Wha?" he says. "rrr-goodgirl. Home." I'm not going to get an address out of him.

Eventually, I do the only thing I can, and ask the driver to take us back to the office. With his arm still draped over my shoulder, I haul him upstairs, unlock the front door with the key in his breast pocket and lead him into his office. Lie him down as gently as I can on the floor behind his desk, tuck him up under a fire blanket and, flushed with guilt, head for the hills.

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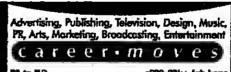
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